

Glenda Wiles

From: McKay, Tod G -FS <tod.mckay@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 1:51 PM
Subject: News Release: Burning Cancelled at Bass Creek Recreation Area
Attachments: Bass Creek Recreation Area - Spring Burning Cancelled.docx

Burning Cancelled at Bass Creek Recreation Area

Hamilton, Montana (May 2, 2019) – The Bitterroot National Forest is advising horseback riders, hikers, and other recreationists that prescribed burning will not occur this spring at the Bass Creek Recreation Area near Stevensville. A 250-acre burn was scheduled to take place, weather permitting, which would have temporarily impacted some roads and trails in the rec area.

A temporary closure order for the popular Larry Creek Trails and horse trailer parking area was rescinded last week and all trails and areas are now open including the Charles Waters Campground. The campground does not have any services yet including water or trash collection. Those are scheduled to begin next Friday, May 10th when camping fees will also begin at the site.

Fire managers say our cool spring and last week's precipitation is what prevented them from burning. The fuels are now out of prescription and the area is quickly greening up, so the project is being postponed for now. It will like occur later this fall or next spring, if conditions allow.

The project is being partially funded by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, to stimulate native plant species important for big game winter forage. Prescribed fires are one of the most effective tools for restoring fire-dependent ecosystems. The burns mimic natural fires, remove excess vegetation to reduce potential wildfire risks, and recycle nutrients, which promotes habitat diversity.

For more information or to be placed on a pre-burning notification list, contact the Stevensville Ranger District at 406-777-5461.

###



Tod McKay
Public Affairs Officer
Forest Service
Bitterroot National Forest

p: 406-363-7122
c: 406-531-1130
tgmckay@fs.fed.us

1801 N. First
Hamilton, MT 59840
www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot



Caring for the land and serving people