

Resource Advisory – 8/24/2013

NOXIOUS WEEDS:

The Emigrant and Sheep fires are burning in habitats important to elk, grizzly bears, and other wildlife. Introduction and spread of weeds in these areas could degrade habitat for these animals by decreasing forage quality and availability. To prevent spread of noxious weeds please:

- **Run all vehicles including UTV's and ATV's through the ICP weed wash station upon arrival at the incident & before demobing.**
- If vehicles are moving between the Sheep and Emigrant fires please weed wash (*including local resources!*).
- Wash all off road vehicles before operating off road. Engines and Mark III's can be used to **spray off UTV's/ATV's at trail heads.**
- Avoid driving through weed patches.



WILDLIFE:

- **Watch Out Situations** – Grizzly bear encounters, black bears, cougars, rattlesnakes, wildlife on roads when driving ****Sheep Fire - HIGH density of grizzly bears in the area!**
- **Do Not Approach Wildlife** –don't get too close, don't try to pick up/move snakes, let wildlife get out of your way on their own (don't harass/chase off from area you need to work in).
- **Situational Awareness - Be Bear Aware (hand-out)** - Watch for bear sign, don't hike alone, make noise, be aware of surroundings during work (look up), proper food/attractant storage, clean camps, don't leave packs unattended, **report any bear sightings & animal carcasses immediately to your division sup. & friendly neighborhood resource advisor.**
- **Bear Encounters**– try to leave the area w/o encounter if possible, **never run/turn your back to bear**, talk to bear in a calm voice, slowly back away, bear spray is a LAST resort (<10m away), have spray close at hand – avoid human spray “incidents”, protect vital organs by laying down on the ground w/pack on. ***Bear Pepper Spray training is mandatory for all individuals carrying it. See resource advisor to receive training.***
- **Proper Attractant Storage** –Bears are attracted any item with odor (e.g. food/garbage/drinks toiletries); these items must be stored properly so that bears cannot get at them. Follow Gallatin NF Food Storage Order (or potentially be sent packing)!
 1. Base camp – No food or drinks in tents; proper food & garbage storage; clean camp.
 2. Spike camps –No food, drinks, toiletries (toothpaste/deodorant) in tents! Attractants must be stored 100+ yards from sleeping areas in bear proof containers if unattended. Stay in groups of 2+ at all times w/accessible bear spray.

SPIKE CAMPS:

Poorly located and managed spike camps can result in long-term resource damage.

- **Work with resource advisors to select spike camp locations** with low potential for resource damage and develop a plan for managing attractants and human waste.
- Spike camps require a dedicated camp manager.
- Do not clear vegetation or trench to create bedding sites.