

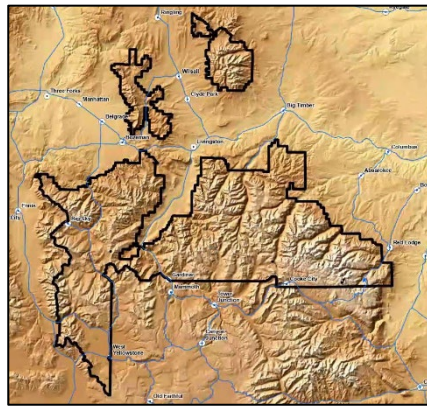
FIRE DANGER POCKET CARD

Custer Gallatin National Forest, Billings Dispatch

FS FDRA – Fire Danger Rating Area

Created on 5/7/2026 by Custer Gallatin NF (FireFamilyPlus 5.0 data)

Fire Danger – BZC FS (2010-2024)	
Maximum	Highest Energy Release Component by day
Average	Mean Energy Release Component by day
92 nd Percentile	Only 8% of days had an Energy Release Component above 42
Large Fire	A fire with a final size >10 acres



Custer Gallatin NF

Weather Zone: 123, 126

SIG: FS FDRA – Shenango,
Hebgen, Main Boulder,
Timbercrest (equal weighting)

*All stations on this card comply
with NWCG weather standards



REMEMBER – What Fire Danger tells you:

- Energy Release Component gives seasonal trends calculated from max temperature and min humidity, daily temperature and relative humidity ranges, and daily precipitation duration
- Wind is NOT part of the ERC calculation
- Pay attention to local conditions and variations across the landscape; Fuel, Weather, Topography
- Listen to weather forecasts, especially WIND
- Drainages may be susceptible to local winds and potential microbursts

LOCAL THRESHOLDS – historically large fires have occurred under the following conditions:

- Relative Humidity < 25%
- Temperature > 80 degrees
- 20-foot Wind Speed > 15 mph
- 1000-hour fuel moisture < 12%
- Live Herbaceous Fuel Moisture < 100%

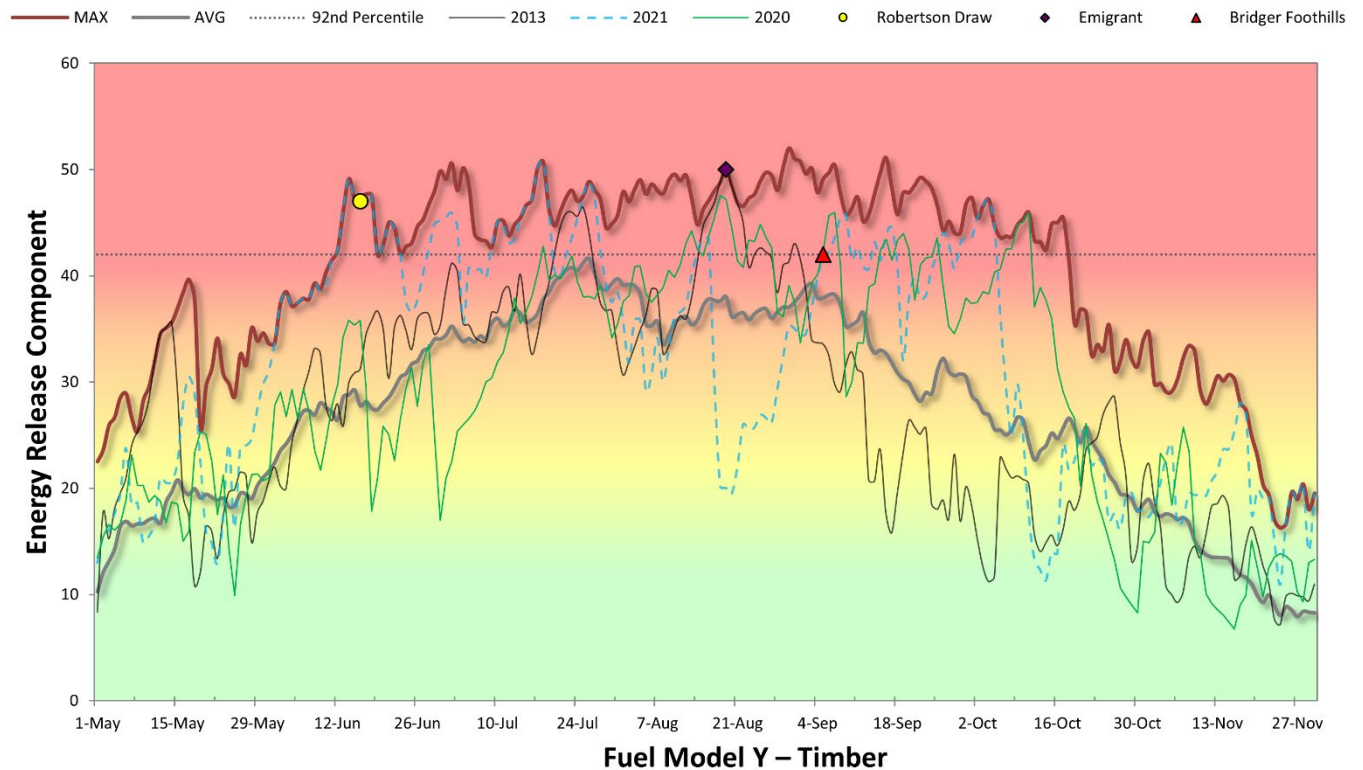
WATCH OUT – when dry fuels are combined with any of the following:

- Alignment of Wind and Slope
- Dry Cold Front Passage - Strong winds combined with Low Relative Humidity

SEVERE FIRE DANGER INDEX (SFDI)

Severe: Expect unprecedented fire growth and fire behavior!

Fire Danger - FS FDRA (2010-2024)



Most large fires are WIND DRIVEN. Prevailing high winds normally SW. However, **East winds and Dry Cold Front Passage winds** have resulted in increased potential for HIGH rates of spread and spotting with independent crown fires. ERCs of 42+ indicate potential for large fire growth.

Emigrant	8/19/2013 (large growth day)	ERC 50	Wind: 28 mph	Temp: 82 degrees	RH: 11%	10,850 total acres	
Bridger Foothills	9/5/2020 (large growth day)	ERC 42	Wind: 23 mph	Temp: 100 degrees	RH: 9%	8,225 total acres	
Robertson Draw	6/15/2021 (large growth day)	ERC 47	Wind: 15 mph	Temp: 90 degrees	RH: 6%	29,885 total acres	**Early season fire**