



MINNESOTA INCIDENT COMMAND
SYSTEM (MNICS)

INCIDENT COMMANDER: JEB BACKE

Bowles Creek Fires

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and Bitterroot National Forest

Fire Information: 406-426-9130

Email: 2023.bowlescreek@firenet.gov

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Bowles-Creek-Fire-Information>

<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/mtbdf-bowles-creek>

August 15, 2023

Location: 27 miles southwest of Phillipsburg, Montana

Start Date: 7/20/2023

Cause: Lightning

Size: 4,033 acres

Completion: 5%

Total Personnel: 207

Engines: 7

Helicopters: 2

Hand Crews: 3

Highway 38, Skalkaho Road remains open. The public is reminded to reduce speed due to the presence of fire personnel and vehicles, recreational users, and extremely dusty conditions. The rest of this week will see forecasted warmer and drier weather conditions, which may cause increased smoke levels and reduced visibility.

CURRENT SITUATION & PLANNED ACTIONS

Fire crews on the east side of the fire continue to work on constructing a fuel break. Chipping operations continue along FS Road 5070 south toward Sand Basin Creek. Snag removal operations continue in the Crystal Creek area. The crews on the west side of the fire continue to secure the line down to Railroad Creek, fortify the fireline and install hose lays. Crews continue to evaluate values at risk and mitigate as needed.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

A high-pressure system will continue in the area through Thursday, with hot and dry conditions. High temperatures will be warmest on Wednesday and Thursday, August 15 and August 16. Poor overnight humidity recoveries on mid-slopes and ridges will continue through Thursday morning. Westerly windspeeds will increase on Wednesday, especially along ridge tops. Today temperatures will remain in the low to mid-80s with Relative Humidity around 15-21%.

CLOSURES

The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and Bitterroot National Forest issued an emergency closure of roads and trails (Closure #02-08-23-19) effective July 25, 2023. This Order is for public and firefighter safety during fire suppression efforts of the Bowles Creek Fire. See the following link for a complete listing of the roads and trails listed in the closure: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/bdnf/alerts-notices/?aid=81818>. Closure information and maps are posted on the Forests' website and the fire's Inciweb page as they are in place.

The Skalkaho Pass Road remains open. Those recreating or traveling in the fire area are encouraged to be aware of the situation and to pay attention to increased fire traffic.

A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) is in effect over the fire area for the safety of the aviation resources.