



NEVADA TYPE 3
INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM

INCIDENT COMMANDER: TIM HOWELL

Bowles Creek Fire

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 20, 2023

Location: 27 miles southwest of Philipsburg, Montana

Start Date: 7/20/2023 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 6,847 acres **Completion:** 20%

Total Personnel: 208 **Engines:** 7 **Helicopters:** 2 **Hand Crews:** 5

Management of the Bowles Creek Fire transitioned to the Great Basin Team 3 today, August 20, 2023.

The Bowles Creek Fire is currently at 6,847 acres. With lower temperatures, increased relative humidity, and precipitation in the area, fire activity was limited. Motorists traveling on Hwy 38, Skalkaho Road, are urged to drive with caution as firefighters will be present along the roadway throughout the day as they continue fire operations.

CURRENT SITUATION & PLANNED ACTIONS

Fire crews continue to construct fuel breaks along several roads and other values at risk. Fire officials continue to monitor fire spread and fire behavior as weather conditions change. Firefighters are utilizing firing operations to strengthen containment lines. Fire crews increased road patrols to better monitor spotting and spreading.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Precipitation reduced significant activity. Rain is expected late Sunday as the remnants of Hurricane Hilary shift northward into the region. The area will experience westerly winds today, with gusts up to 15 mph on the ridges. Skies will become cloudy during the course of the day resulting in increasing chances of rain during the day, increasing relative humidities 20% to 30%. Precipitation will keep fire activity minimal over the next several days.

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. For a complete listing of the closed roads and trails, visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/bdnf/alerts-notice/?aid=81818>. Closure information and maps are also posted on the Forests' website and the fire's Inciweb page. 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.