



HOG TROUGH FIRE

Location: 18 miles southeast of Hamilton, MT, near Skalkaho Highway

406-200-8980

AUGUST 5, 2022

Start Date: 7/19/2022	Cause: Lightning	Size: 771 acres	Completion: 9%
Total Personnel: 341	Engines: 4	Helicopters: 3	Hand Crews: 8

CURRENT STATUS

Yesterday's red flag warning conditions, with west/southwest gusts up to 25 mph, pushed the fire east towards the 5071 road. However, crews were able to hold the fire west of the road. Helicopters will continue to provide support to ground crews by dropping water in the fire area, mainly on the west and northwest flanks of the fire. Hotshot crews will continue with construction of handline in these areas, utilizing existing roads and trails in the Railroad Creek drainage and shrinking the operational footprint. Helicopters will also assist with crew movement, shuttling firefighters and their gear closer to the fire's edge. Heavy equipment and chainsaw operators will continue work along roads on the eastern flank, removing hazardous trees.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Conditions will continue to be hot and dry today, although a Red Flag Warning is no longer in effect. The fire continues to burn pockets of unburned fuel on the western edge of the fire perimeter, along the 2005 Signal Rock Fire burn footprint. A chance of thunderstorms in the coming days could increase fire behavior, with potential for torching and spotting due to increased winds. The fire continues to move slowly through the large, dry fuels. Green, live fuels have limited fire movement to date but will continue to dry and cure as seasonal summer weather continues.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

Specific closure information can be found at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/8258/>

Road Closures:

- Skalkaho Highway (Highway 38) is open.
- Skalkaho Road (Forest Service road 75) and Forest Service road 711 are both closed at the junction of Skalkaho Highway, including the ancillary roads leading from the 711 Road. Skalkaho Road is open past Mile Marker 5 (Skalkaho Creek-Jerry Lake Trailhead #503).
- Forest Service roads 5070 and 5071 are closed.

Trail Closures:

- Railroad Creek, National Forest System Trail #77 to Trail #313 at the gate.
- Weasel Creek, National Forest System Trail #156 from milepost 0.00 at its junction with NFSR #461.
- A section of the Bitterroot Rock Creek Divide Trail #313, National Forest System Trail #313 where it intersects Trail #77 Railroad Creek, Weasel Creek Trail #156.
- Skalkaho Creek – Jerry Lake Trail #503, National Forest System Trail #503.

