



HOG TROUGH FIRE

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



AUGUST 29, 2022

Start Date: 7/19/2022 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 1,701 acres **Completion:** 77%
Total Personnel: 131 **Engines:** 2 **Helicopters:** 2 **Crews:** 4

CURRENT STATUS

Yesterday on the southwest flank of the fire, there was minimal fire activity. Crews monitored the edge of the fire, holding fireline and looking for hot spots and signs for increasing fire behavior as the area starts to dry out following recent precipitation. Today, crews will continue to hold and improve line, looking for any remaining hot spots that need to be extinguished. Improvements on the Weasel Creek Trail are complete and the crews will begin pulling the hoselay from this area.

Yesterday to the southeast, crews chipped and cleared flammable woody materials along the 7051 road and moved east toward the 8013 trail. Today crews will continue eastward with the chipping operation to clean and clear the road and trail. Starting today, an additional mechanical chipper has been added to the chipping operation on the 8013 trail, effectively doubling chipping capacity.

Crews have successfully directed the fire into previously burned areas to the south where fire intensity will be lower. On the north and northwest flanks of the fire, the fire is contained and is now in patrol status.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

High pressure will be present over the fire through Tuesday. Light west winds will develop each afternoon. Daytime humidity will dry fuels and overnight recovery will be poor. Fire behavior will be minimal with creeping and smoldering.

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.

Fire Restrictions:

- Stage 2 Fire Restrictions on all Bitterroot National Forest lands in Montana. See mtfireinfo.org for more specific restrictions information.

