



Bull Gin Complex Daily Update

Monday, September 19, 2022



**NORTHERN ROCKIES
INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM 2**

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Inciweb: Bull Gin Complex,
<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/8381>

Facebook: @kootenainf,
<https://www.facebook.com/kootenainf>

INCIDENT STATISTICS

Size: 3,824 acres
Completion: 6 %
Start Date: September 2, 2022
Cause: Lightning
Location: 2 miles NE of Heron, MT

Total Personnel: 524
Resources: Crews: 14;
Engines: 20;
Water Tenders: 12; Heavy Equipment: 20

COMPLETION vs. CONTAINMENT

You may have noticed the use of the word completion, rather than containment, throughout this update. Wildland fire patterns continue to change, causing firefighters to adjust how they can most safely and effectively fight fire. This complex, like an increasing number of wildland fire incidents, has been and continues to utilize a “point protection” strategy, where values at risk (such as private property, infrastructure, high value assets, ecological resources) are focused on as “points.” Firefighters establish control and contingency lines around these points, working toward completion.

Bull Gin Complex Fires	Size	Completion
Government Fire	2,413 acres	0%
Billiard Fire	1,125 acres	6%
Isabella Lake Fire	285 acres	0%

HIGHLIGHTS: Northern Rockies Team 2 assumed command of the Bull Gin Complex at 6:30 AM today. While incident command is changing, today’s firefighting operations and fire behavior is similar to yesterdays. The fires are expected to be fairly quiet, with minimal fire behavior continuing to move downhill in certain areas. Firefighters will continue to maintain and advance control lines and protect values at risk. Northern Rockies Team 2 thanks the community for its warm welcome and looks forward to working with you all.

Government Fire: The southeast area of the fire continues to be the most active portion of this fire. Firefighters continue to focus on reinforcing control lines, especially where the fire continues to move downhill toward Rock Creek and Rock Creek Road. Resources are actively monitoring the handline and maintaining hoselays established near the private property in this area. Chipping along also Rock Creek Road continues. Engines are patrolling and monitoring structures along Government Road, while masticators advance work along the road. Aircraft are monitoring the Rock Lake Fire, which firefighters recently controlled via initial attack.

Billiard Fire: Firefighters completed the contingency line along Fatman Road. Dozers also completed lines along the southeast side of the fire. Resources continue to monitor the fire in relation to these lines. Masticators are improving the contingency lines along Road 2296, which connects Fatman Road and Blue Creek Road. Crews continue to patrol and monitor structures along Blue Creek, Blue Creek Bay, Hillside Lane, and Fatman Road.

Isabella Lake Fire The fire continues to be monitored by air resources.

EVACUATIONS: On September 8th the Sanders County Sheriff’s Office placed the residents along Government Mountain Road and Timber Ridge Road into pre-evacuation status. For status of emergency conditions, please sign up for Sanders County Emergency Alerts at 406-203-0082.

CLOSURES: Government Mountain Road and Rock Creek Road are closed to the public. The Noxon Refuse Site remains open during regular hours. Area, road, and trail closures are in place for the Government, Billiard, and Isabella Lake Fires to provide for public safety and firefighting operations. See Inciweb for maps and closure descriptions: <https://bit.ly/KootenaiNFClosures>.

WEATHER: Today’s forecast is calling for a cooler but dry day, with continued cloud coverage. Today’s winds will be westerly, with gusts up to 15-20 mph on ridgetops. A dry cold front is expected to set in tonight, causing the wind to shift in direction from west to northeast. Wind speed will be similar tonight. A wetting rain (¼ to ½ inch) is anticipated Wednesday evening, but conditions could change.