



**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: 4,254 acres
Completion: 32 %
Start Date: September 2, 2022
Cause: Lightning
Location: 2 miles NE of Heron, MT
Total Personnel: 382
Resources: Crews: 8; Engines: 9; Water Tenders: 5; Heavy Equipment: 14



While an important firefighting tool, masticating can leave a buildup of vegetation in culverts. In the photo above, as part of suppression repair, firefighters are removing debris from a culvert. Photo taken from the Billiard Fire area.

Bull Gin Complex Daily Update

Friday, September 23, 2022



<u>Bull Gin Complex</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Government Fire	2,763
Billiard Fire	1,201
Isabella Lake Fire	290

HIGHLIGHTS: Yesterday's rain significantly reduced fire activity throughout the Complex, with some areas receiving up to 0.8" of precipitation. Today's focus is on patrol and suppression repair. Along cold sections of each fire, crews will remove unneeded hose lays and pumps, as is feasible. Firefighters will also complete mopping up the Wanless Fire, the new start that occurred two days ago.

Government Fire: Firefighting efforts, combined with the rain, have successfully kept the fire north of the Rock Creek control line. Firefighters continue to patrol and mop up the fire, especially in the southern area near private residences. Mastication in the southwest portion of the fire continues.

Billiard Fire: Crews will continue gridding and advancing suppression repair work, with a focus on removing debris from culverts. Excavators will repair dozer and handline.

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

WEATHER: The area of low pressure responsible for yesterday's rain left the area last night. A ridge of high pressure is building back up and will continue into early next week. The result will be slowly increasing temperatures and decreasing humidity.

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>.

WHEN WILL IT BE OUT? Even though the Complex received rain yesterday, smoke will persist. The fires will remain in areas where the canopy prevented dry fuels from receiving moisture and where large burning snags and log continue to consume. It will take a season-ending event to extinguish these fires. This event will include sustained lower temperatures, shorter burning periods, increased relative humidity, shorter sunlight duration, and significant moisture.

WHAT IS SUPPRESSION REPAIR? Wildfire suppression repair is a set of different actions (immediately taken) to repair damages caused by firefighting activities. It can include repairing culverts, restoring roads and trails to their pre-fire condition, reducing the appearance of dozer and hand line, and other suppression activities. The goal of suppression repair is to immediately minimize the potential of soil erosion and other negative impacts resulting from fire suppression activities.