



# Bowles Creek Fire

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and Bitterroot National Forest

Fire Information: 406-426-9130

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Bowles-Creek-Fire-Information>

<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/mtbdf-bowles-creek>

**July 29, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.**

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**Location:** 3 miles west of Skalkaho Pass in the Bowles Creek drainage

**Start Date:** 7/20/2023    **Cause:** Lightning    **Size:** 1,714 acres    **Completion:** 0%

**Total Personnel:** 192    **Engines:** 4    **Helicopters:** 1    **Hand Crews:** 4

**Fire Danger is VERY HIGH on both forests (Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF and Bitterroot NF).**

## CURRENT SITUATION & PLANNED ACTIONS

On the west side of the fire, a hotshot crew completed fireline construction from Forest Road 711 to a rock scree and will continue handline towards Forest Road 711A to serve as a control line for containment. In the northwest corner by the rock scree, the hotshot crew will connect fireline into a previous burn scar to serve as a control line for containment. Heavy equipment and masticators continue work to remove vegetation on forest roads, and construct indirect fireline utilizing a road system towards Railroad Creek. Previous firelines and dozer lines constructed in the 2022 Hog Trough fire are being utilized.

On the east of the fire, hand crews continue to construct and improve fireline along Forest Trail 313 to Forest Road 5071. Hand crews continue to secure the fireline by installing hose lay, which is an arrangement of connected lengths of fire hose and accessories on the ground, with pumps and local water sources. Heavy equipment continues work on fuel breaks by reducing vegetation along Forest Roads 5070 and 5071.

Fire personnel are utilizing a helicopter as needed to support operations on both ends of the fire area. An Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) crew continues to provide reconnaissance throughout the fire area for opportunities.

## WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Saturday's forecast is for warmer and drier conditions, with a 20 percent chance of lightning in the afternoon.

Temperatures will increase to the low 80's and winds will be southwest 5-15 mph with gusts up to 20 mph. Due to some lingering moisture and instability, any storms that develop are capable of erratic outflow winds of about 30 mph. Sunday is forecasted to continued warming with temperatures in the 80s and humidity decreasing to 20 percent.

## 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. See the following link for a complete listing of the roads and trails listed in the closure: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/bdnf/alerts-notices/?aid=81818>. Closure information and maps are posted on the Forests' website and the fire's Inciweb page as they are in place.

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.