



Bowles Creek Fire

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and Bitterroot National Forest

Fire Information: 406-426-9130

Email: 2023.bowlescreek@firenet.gov

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

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

July 30, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

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, hand crews completed line construction, from the northwest corner to Forest Road 711A for containment. Hand crews will continue to install hose lay and sprinklers along the northwest edge of the fireline to support suppression efforts. Heavy equipment and masticators continue work to remove ladder fuels on FSR 711A as an indirect fireline. Ladder fuels are vegetation that provide continuous fuel from the ground into the tree crowns.

On the east of the fire, hand crews completed fireline along Forest Trail 313 to Forest Road 5071, and installation of hose lay was completed to secure the fireline. Heavy equipment continues work on fuel breaks towards an old harvest unit by reducing vegetation along Forest Roads 5070 and 5071.

Fire personnel are utilizing helicopters as needed to support operations on both ends of the fire area.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Fire activity expected to increase Sunday as warm and dry air returns to the fire area, including breezy conditions. There a low chance wetting rain Sunday, with potential for new fire ignitions from lightning activity. Temperatures will remain in the 80's and winds from the south 5-15 mph with gusts up to 20 mph. Monday is forecasted to continued warming with temperatures in the 80s and humidity decreasing below 20 percent. The warm and dry trend will carry into early next week.

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.