



Ridge Fire Incident Update Date: 08/09/23



<https://www.facebook.com/discovertheflathead>



<https://www.youtube.com/@2023ridgefire>

Fire Information: 406-998-6074

Hours: 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Email: 2023.ridge@firenet.gov

Incident Website:

<http://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mtfnf-ridge-fire>

Location: 6 miles southeast of Hungry Horse

Size: 2,940 acres

Percent Contained: 0 %

Cause: Lightning

Start Date: July 30, 2023, 3:45 PM

Vegetation: Timber (Litter and Understory), Tall Grass, and Brush

Number of Personnel Assigned: 249

⚠ Hungry Horse Reservoir Closed Due to Fire Activity ⚠

Hungry Horse Reservoir is closed until further notice. All National Forest System lands in the area and National Forest System roads 38 and 895 will be closed to public use for public and firefighter safety.

CURRENT SITUATION:

Firefighters were able to keep the fire to 2,940 acres, with minimal growth from yesterday. While maintaining safety for firefighters, crews will continue to work in steep terrain with dry fuel, and attack the fire directly where possible. Because there are limited options to go direct, firefighters are also continuing to use indirect firefighting tactics – removing fuel from the fire's edge and constructing and improving containment lines. The priority is to protect private residences and critical infrastructure on the fire's western edge and keep it east of FS Road #38. Yesterday, crews were able to successfully improve the direct line on the southern border of the fire along FS Road #38 (East Side Road). On the northwestern perimeter of the fire, dozers were utilized to open up the 590E Road – also removing fuel from the fire's path. Firefighters did not see any movement on the eastern flank of the fire and will continue to monitor. As resources continue to arrive, there will be an increase in fire equipment entering and exiting Highway 2 – use caution.

Incident personnel will continue to monitor weather and fire conditions to determine when aircraft can be utilized to aid ground resources. Weather permitting, aircraft will be used on the eastern front of the fire.

The following road closures are in effect:

- FS Road #38 (East Side Road #38) is closed to all public traffic east of the junction of FS Road #497 (Desert Mountain Road) and East Side Road #38.
- FS Road #895 (West Side South Fork Road #895) is closed to all public traffic starting at mile 15, near the Lid Creek Campground.
- West Side South Fork Road #895 from the Hungry Horse Dam Visitor Center to the existing closure at mile 15, near the Lid Creek Campground. Pre-evacuation notice in effect for private property along SF Abbot Creek on the west side of the fire.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR:

Wind is expected at 12-17 MPH in the fire area with gusts up to 30 in the afternoon. Overnight recovery relative humidity was in the 50% and fire activity was low. The fire is burning in heavy fuels and steep terrain.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES:

As of 6:00 am, California Interagency Incident Management Team 4 has assumed management of the incident. Residents should stay alert for changing conditions and visit ready.gov/wildfires for preparing for wildfires. For up-to-date information on the Ridge Fire, please visit InciWeb, Flathead National Forest Facebook, @2023ridgefire, and Flathead County Sheriff's Office Facebook for evacuation information.

Please refer to <http://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mtfnf-tin-soldier-complex> for the Tin Soldier Complex incident information.