



River Road East Fire

Fact Sheet



NORTHERN ROCKIES TEAM 1

Phone: 406-345-5972

2023.RiverRoadEast@firenet.gov

INCIDENT COMMANDER: BRENT OLSON

<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mtlnf-river-road-east-fire>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/riverroadeastfire>

Monday, August 21, 2023 at 10:00 am

Location: 6 miles east of Plains, Montana

Start Date: 8/18/2023

Cause: Unknown

Size: 16,790 acres

Containment: 0%

Total Personnel: 370

Crews: 9

Engines: 20

KEY MESSAGE: A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) has been implemented over the fire area. This allows for firefighting aircraft to safely work over the fire area. Pilots in the area should check the NOTAMs and follow all directions for both public and firefighter safety. If you fly, we can't!

CURRENT STATUS: Yesterday, fire activity was observed as moderate. The late afternoon infrared flight on 8/20/23 mapped the fire at approximately 16,790 acres in size, an increase of 3,376 acres. The smoke lifted enough for aircraft to conduct additional retardant drops to protect the Pat's Knob Lookout and communications site. On the eastern side of the fire, along the north edge, crews worked to secure a control line continuing to the north to keep up with the fire along River Road East. On the western side of the fire crews continued to secure control lines around structures in the Paradise area as well as working to the north building fire control lines to keep the fire out of the Highway 200 corridor. Fire personnel worked out ahead of the fire in Henry's Creek and in the Camas Prairie area to search for access routes and locations to build indirect and direct control lines where the opportunities for success are the greatest. Crews continued to be in place on the southwest side of the fire area to monitor fire movement in the rocky terrain west of the Hwy 135 and 200 junction.

PLANNED ACTIONS: Crews will secure and mop up control lines built to protect structures in Paradise and the Highway 200 corridor. In addition, fire crews will continue to work on control lines both north and south of the river and in the Highway 200 corridor to keep holding the fire as it moves to the north on both sides. Fire personnel will construct both indirect and direct lines in locations with the greatest opportunity for success on the north and east sides of the fire. On the southeast side, firefighters will look for access routes and potential locations for indirect control lines. On the southwest side of the fire control lines will be reinforced to protect the Pat's Knob Lookout and communication infrastructure site if needed. Opportunities for indirect control lines are also being explored along the western side of the fire. The long-term fire suppression plan continues to be developed including identifying actions needed, risk to responders, and probability of success to accomplish fire containment. Aircraft will be utilized for fire suppression if weather and smoke conditions safely allow.

WEATHER: The weather will be mostly cloudy with a rain in the morning and rain showers in the afternoon. Temperatures will range from 68-78 degrees in the valley. Relative humidity levels will be as low as 58-68%. Winds will be from the east at 5-15 mph.

EVACUATIONS:

For Evacuation updates please visit the Sanders County Sheriff's Office Facebook Page.

The Montana Red Cross has opened a shelter at the Church on the Move, 300 Clayton St., in Plains, MT.

