



Increased Fire Activity Expected on Ridge, Doris, and Tin Soldier Fires with Weekend Warming & Drying Trend

August 26, 2023 Daily Update



Table 1

<u>Ridge Fire</u>	<u>Doris Point Fire</u>	<u>Tin Soldier Fires</u>
Location: 6 miles southeast of Hungry Horse	Location: 8 miles south of Hungry Horse	Location: 17 miles east of Swan Lake
Size: 3665 acres	Size: 1585 acres	Size: 8165 acres
Percent Contained: 76%	Percent Completed: 58%	Percent Completed: 20%
Cause: Lightning	Cause: Lightning	Cause: Lightning
Start Date: July 30 th , 2023 @ 3:45 PM	Start Date: July 30 th , 2023 @ 3:45 PM	Start Date: July 30 th , 2023 @ 3:45 PM
Personnel Assigned: 424	Personnel Assigned: 30	Personnel Assigned: 114

Highlights: A small amount of moisture fell over the fire areas late yesterday afternoon, but a warming and drying trend is predicted through the weekend. As temperatures rise and humidities decline, expect to see increased activity on all incidents. An Unmanned Aerial Systems group was ordered and will gather imagery and intel for future planning on all fires. Moving forward, Inciweb information for the Tin Soldier Complex will now be updated on the Ridge Fire Inciweb page. Southwest Area Incident Management Team 1 will host a community meeting at the Glacier Bible Camp at 5:00 PM on Sunday, August 27th.

Operations:

Ridge Fire: Yesterday crews continued to monitor and patrol containment lines and look for opportunities to backhaul equipment and supplies. As containment lines continue to hold, resources today will pull large swaths of hose lays for backhaul. On the uncontrolled northeast corner of the fire where fire activity remains low, crews will patrol the line. The repair group has begun restoring handline and will assess dozer line rehabilitation, as well.

Doris Point Fire: Crews today will build upon missions from yesterday by removing more hazard trees along roadways and values at risk. As a result of the rain from last week and steep slopes in the area, there is an increased risk of falling trees and debris. To mitigate these risks, crews are continually evaluating and removing hazard trees – particularly along FS RD 895. As conditions become warmer and drier, there has been an increase in creeping fire behavior through some fine ground fuels.

Tin Soldier Fire: Crews on the Tin Soldier Fire today will continue with the same missions from yesterday. They will monitor the area of slop over along Meadow Creek for remaining hotspots and patrol the fire line along the east side where structures and other values at risk are present. Mechanical thinning will continue along Meadow Creek with good progress being made there. Prep work continues on FS RD 2628 and FS RD 2828, near the Hydro Dam, and personnel will maintain pump operations around structures and other values at risk.

Weather and Fire Behavior:

The ridge of high pressure continues to strengthen over the region this weekend. Temperatures today will be similar to yesterday and warmer on Sunday. Afternoon humidity readings will be dropping each day with the development of thermal belts at night.

Ridge, Doris Point, and Tin Soldier Fires: 82-88 degrees in the lower elevations and 72-77 degrees in the mid-slopes to ridges with minimum relative humidity at 24-29%. On all fires, winds will be southwest 3-8 mph becoming northwest 5-10 mph with gusts to around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Fire Closure:

The Hungry Horse Reservoir is closed to all public access, including both the east and west side roads. The Forest Closure Order that includes the Heinrude Community remains in effect. As firefighting efforts continue on the Ridge Fire, Doris Point Fire, and Tin Soldier Fire the closure is in place to provide for public and firefighter safety. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/flathead/alerts-notices/?aid=82283>

Additional Information:

Residents should stay alert for changing conditions and visit <https://www.ready.gov/wildfires> for preparing for wildfires. The Tin Soldier Complex Incident information will now be updated on the Ridge Fire Inciweb page. Moving forward, please refer to <https://inciweb.nwccg.gov/incident-information/mtfnf-ridge-fire> for information on the Tin Soldier Complex.