



# Cold and Wet Weather Will Follow Today's Hot and Dry Conditions on the Ridge, Doris Point, and Tin Soldier Fires

August 29, 2023 Daily Update



Table 1

<b><u>Ridge Fire</u></b>	<b><u>Doris Point Fire</u></b>	<b><u>Tin Soldier Fires</u></b>
<b>Location:</b> 6 miles southeast of Hungry Horse	<b>Location:</b> 8 miles south of Hungry Horse	<b>Location:</b> 17 miles east of Swan Lake
<b>Size:</b> 3665 acres	<b>Size:</b> 1597 acres	<b>Size:</b> 8165 acres
<b>Percent Contained:</b> 76%	<b>Percent Completed:</b> 68%	<b>Percent Completed:</b> 81%
<b>Cause:</b> Lightning	<b>Cause:</b> Lightning	<b>Cause:</b> Lightning
<b>Start Date:</b> July 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 @ 3:45 PM	<b>Start Date:</b> July 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 @ 3:45 PM	<b>Start Date:</b> July 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 @ 3:45 PM
<b>Personnel Assigned:</b> 332	<b>Personnel Assigned:</b> 44	<b>Personnel Assigned:</b> 97

## Highlights:

Conditions today will be hot and dry followed by an abrupt change in the late afternoon as a strong cold front pushes through the area bringing wind, rain, and possible lightning. Afternoon fire activity will increase on the southwest corner of Doris Point as well as the Tin Soldier Fires, but then be moderated by the rain and cool weather arriving later in the day and continuing through tomorrow.

## Operations:

### Ridge Fire:

Ground and aerial resources observed a small amount of heat in interior areas of the fire yesterday. Crews continue suppression repair work spreading wood chip piles along contingency lines west and north of the Ridge Fire. Resources will also be pulling in large berms from constructed dozer line.

### Doris Point Fire:

Firefighters completed suppression repair operations yesterday and are felling snags upslope from roads to ensure public safety. Structure protection remains in the Lost Johnny Point area. Crews expect increased fire behavior with today's weather and will actively monitor fire behavior to prevent movement across Lost Johnny Road.

### Tin Soldier Fire:

Mechanical thinning with heavy equipment continues along the road north of Spotted Bear to mitigate any future fire growth in that direction. Crews have finished removing plumbing in the Heinrude community. Structure protection remains in place around the Spotted Bear Ranger Station. Observers documented smoke in interior pockets of the fire areas yesterday with similar conditions expected today.

## Weather and Fire Behavior:

Hot and dry conditions will build today with an increase in southerly winds and a period of unstable conditions in the afternoon, creating near critical fire weather conditions later today. Fire activity is expected to increase, and smoke may be visible. A strong cold front will push through the fire locations this evening, bringing strong outflow winds, rainfall, and possible lightning. Steady rain is expected tonight through Wednesday with minimal warming.

Ridge, Doris Point, and Tin Soldier Fires: 90-95° in the lower elevations and 79-84° in the mid-slopes to ridges with minimum relative humidity at 18-23%. Winds will be variable 3-8 mph becoming south 5-13 mph in the afternoon. Wednesday will be cloudy and rainy with maximum temperatures 53-58° at lower elevations and 44-49° mid-slopes to ridges.

## 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. Information for the Ridge, Doris Point, and Tin Soldier Complex Fires is found at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/mtfnf-ridge-fire>.

Fire Information: 406-998-6074 (8:00 am to 7:00 pm)  
<https://www.facebook.com/ridge.fire.information>

Email: [2023.ridge@firenet.gov](mailto:2023.ridge@firenet.gov)  
<https://www.youtube.com/@2023ridgefire>