



NORTHERN ROCKIES TEAM 5

INCIDENT COMMANDER: JOE SAMPSON

# COLT FIRE

AUGUST 6, 2023

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<b>Location:</b> 15 miles northwest of Seeley Lake, Montana	<b>Information Line:</b> 406-247-0922		
<b>Start Date:</b> 7/17/2023	<b>Cause:</b> Lightning	<b>Size:</b> 7,179 acres	<b>Containment:</b> 25%
<b>Total Personnel:</b> 612	<b>Engines:</b> 13	<b>Helicopters:</b> 5	<b>Hand Crews:</b> 13

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## CURRENT STATUS

Northern Rockies Team 5, a Complex Incident Management Team led by Incident Commander Joe Sampson, assumed command of the fire on August 6th at 6 am. Yesterday, hand crews continued constructing handline from the southwestern portion of the fire to Sunset Ridge. Crews in the southeast then began to search for opportunities to extend this line beyond Sunset Ridge. This is the area where the fire is currently most active and contains steep terrain with heavy fuels.

To the north, crews placed hose lays along the creek bed in the Beaver Lake area. On the fire's eastern edge, crews continued their patrols of the fire's edge and "mopped up" residual heat along the fire's perimeter, as needed. Heavy rainfall limited firefighter access to the southern edge of the fire. Firefighting activity remained limited in this area throughout the day. A structure protection group patrolled the Highway 83 corridor and assessed structural protection needs for the Lindbergh Lake area.

## PLANNED ACTION

Heavy equipment will begin constructing line from Sunset Ridge east, continuing the progress of the line constructed by hand crews. To the north, crews will "mop-up" residual heat along the fire's perimeter from Beaver Lake to Colt Lake. Patrols will continue on the eastern side of the fire. Firefighters will continue constructing handline along the south edge of the fire today, as weather permits.

## WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Recent rain showers have slowed the fire's forward progression with fire growth mainly contained to the southwestern portion of the fire. Up to a quarter inch of rain accumulated on the southernmost areas of the fire yesterday. Continued rain showers with temperatures in the mid-70s, and relative humidity above 50 percent are expected to reduce fire activity over the next few days. Up to a half inch of rain is predicted in the area and flooding is possible. However, strong outflow winds (up to 45 mph) from thunderstorms increases the risk of the fire spotting into unburned fuels beyond the current fire perimeter.

While the fire will likely exhibit creeping and smoldering behavior in the coming days, single tree torching is possible if the fire burns into large areas of unburned ground fuels. As the weather warms towards the middle of the week, with less precipitation anticipated, an increase of fire activity is expected.

## CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

Specific closure information can be found at <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mtmts-colt-fire>

