



NORTHERN ROCKIES TEAM 5

INCIDENT COMMANDER: JOE SAMPSON

COLT FIRE

AUGUST 7, 2023

Location: 15 miles northwest of Seeley Lake, Montana	Information Line: 406-247-0922
Start Date: 7/17/2023	Cause: Lightning
Size: 7,179 acres	Containment: 25%
Total Personnel: 515	Engines: 13
Helicopters: 6	Hand Crews: 10

CURRENT STATUS

While rainfall in the fire area decreased fire activity, it also limited firefighters' ability to access roads in certain areas of the fire. Crews were able to successfully "mop-up" residual heat from much of the fire's northern and eastern edge. On the southwest corner of the fire, heavy equipment completed line construction up to Sunset Ridge and crews scouted beyond Sunset Ridge to identify additional areas to continue line construction. To the east, crews "mopped-up" residual heat along the fire's perimeter and searched for any remaining areas of heat.

PLANNED ACTION

Crews will mop-up remaining residual heat along the fire's north and east flanks. Heavy equipment will search for opportunities to construct line further along the fire's southwest edge near Sunset Ridge. Hand crews will again be in the area, searching for a path to continue the line beyond the ridge. Along the southern edge of the fire crews will continue to construct handline above West Fork Clearwater River. Aircraft will be available to assist firefighters as needed and as conditions allow.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Within the last 24 hours, the fire received about 8/10 of an inch of rain. Showers and thunderstorms may return this afternoon, bringing with them a risk of heavy downpours, lightning, and gusty outflow winds. While the rain has lessened fire activity for the time being, fire activity is expected to increase later in the week as temperatures rise and relative humidities decrease. This incoming warm weather with possible gusty winds will increase the chances of larger fuels (between 3 inches and 8 inches in diameter) burning, as the dryness of these fuels is still near record lows.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

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