



NORTHERN ROCKIES TEAM 5

INCIDENT COMMANDER: JOE SAMPSON

# COLT FIRE

AUGUST 8, 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:** 39%  
**Total Personnel:** 506      **Engines:** 13      **Helicopters:** 6      **Hand Crews:** 9

## CURRENT STATUS

The fire's containment increased to 39 percent as crews were able to take advantage of quieted fire behavior from the recent moisture and successfully "mop-up" residual heat on the fire's northeast and eastern edge. Crews also continued "mopping-up" residual heat on the fire near Beaver Lake. Yesterday's drier weather allowed crews to successfully access the southern edge of the fire to construct line. On the fire's southwest corner, crews continued handline construction toward Sunset Ridge.

## PLANNED ACTION

Crews will "mop-up" remaining residual heat along the fire's northern and eastern edges between Colt Lake and Beaver Lake. Crews will continue constructing line west to Sunset Ridge on the south flank. Heavy equipment will assist crews with additional line construction on the northwest corner of the fire.

Air operations will be using two unmanned aerial systems (UAS "drones") over the coming days to map out areas of heat within the fire area. The UAS aircraft is best able to pick up areas of heat within the fire late at night and early in the morning due to lower air temperatures at these times. For this reason, **the temporary flight restriction (TFR) for the fire area (FDC 3/7867) has been extended** from 8am-10am to a full 24-hour restriction. This restriction is necessary to provide a safe environment for firefighting aircraft operating in the area. *If you fly, we can't!*

## WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Temperatures remained about five degrees below average yesterday, in the mid-70s, with relative humidities lowering to the mid-30s. However, the fire did exhibit some isolated tree torching interior to the western flank of the fire. Fire weather and behavior is expected to be similar today as yesterday. Thunderstorms are possible tomorrow night with gusts up to 35 mph. By Thursday, sunny, warm weather is likely to return with westerly wind gusts up to 25 mph on ridgetops. As light, grassy fuels dry out, fire activity is likely to increase, with some isolated tree torching expected.

## CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

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