



NORTHERN ROCKIES TEAM 5

INCIDENT COMMANDER: JOE SAMPSON

COLT FIRE

AUGUST 13, 2023

Location: 15 miles northwest of Seeley Lake, Montana **Information Line:** 406-247-0922
Start Date: 7/17/2023 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 7,202 acres **Containment:** 45%
Total Personnel: 606 **Engines:** 11 **Helicopters:** 5 **Hand Crews:** 12

CURRENT STATUS

In the southwestern area of the fire, crews completed handline construction along the fire's edge. To the southwest of Beaver Lake, a specialized crew of firefighters successfully felled hazardous trees using explosives. These trees were too dangerous for crews to fell using chainsaws. Crews continued to pro-actively search for areas of heat to mop-up along the fire's eastern edge. Even though smoke is not visible in this area, there are areas of ground that remain hot and have the potential to reignite. Crews searched out these hot spots and cooled them by mixing in cold dirt and water.

PLANNED ACTION

Crews will mop-up residual heat interior to the completed handline, dozer line, and roads on the fire's southwest edge. They will use hose lays and pumps to assist with the mop-up process. Throughout the fire area, crews will continue to mitigate areas with hazard trees as needed to ensure crew safety while working. To the south and east of the fire area, crews will begin chipping operations. Firefighters chip wood to limit the concentrations of heavy fuels in and around the fire area. Essentially, by chipping the wood, it becomes less of a fire hazard. The unmanned aerial system (UAS) assigned to the fire will continue mapping hot spots on the fire's northern flank.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

The fire weather will continue its warming and drying trend with high temperatures, lower relative humidity and increased wind speeds. Fuels will continue to dry out with the expected temperatures in the fire area potentially reaching 90 degrees. Humidity will not be increasing as much overnight as it has in the past few weeks, meaning fuels will dry out further. In the next few days, the fire will mainly continue to smolder. However, the fire's flame lengths, for areas with active fire spread, may reach up to about 6 inches. An increase in smoke is expected in the fire area.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

Lake Alva Campground, Lake Inez Campground, and Rainy Lake Campground remain closed at this time due to firefighter activity in the area. Specific closure information can be found at <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mtmts-colt-fire>.