



NORTHERN ROCKIES TEAM 5

INCIDENT COMMANDER: JOE SAMPSON

# COLT FIRE

AUGUST 15, 2023

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**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:** 543      **Engines:** 12      **Helicopters:** 5      **Hand Crews:** 11

## CURRENT STATUS

Firefighters improved constructed line on the fire's edge in an area just north of Sunset Peak. Helicopters assisted crews in removing unneeded hose from the fire line along the fire's southeastern edge. Crews began chipping wood along the Marshall Creek Road south of the fire perimeter. In late July, firefighters had taken measures to reduce fuels in this area as to improve firefighter access and increase the probability of controlling the fire should it have moved south of the Clearwater River.

## PLANNED ACTION

Firefighters continue to search for areas of heat near the fire perimeter along the fire's uncontained edge. The patchy and uneven burn pattern resulted in difficult mop-up conditions, hindering the ability to confidently increase containment. UAS infrared missions will continue in the early morning hours, although the thick canopy cover of the trees can make it harder to detect hot spots.

## WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

The fire's incident meteorologist released another weather balloon yesterday. Data from the balloon showed temperatures 16 degrees warmer than Sunday at 6,500 feet with drier air. Temperatures in the mid-90s will persist through Thursday. Relative humidity will be as low as 15-20 percent and wind may gust up to 15 mph, triggering a Fire Weather Watch for Wednesday and Thursday. There is the potential for increased fire behavior with this warming and drying trend. However, rain and cooler conditions may be in the forecast for the weekend.

## CLOSURES AND EVACUATIONS

The Missoula County Sheriff's Office has no evacuation orders or warnings in effect due to the Colt Fire as of 8/14/2023. For evolving Evacuations and Warnings please visit the Missoula County Sheriff's Office Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MissoulaCountySheriffsOffice>.

**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>.