



NORTHERN ROCKIES TEAM 5

INCIDENT COMMANDER: JOE SAMPSON

COLT FIRE

AUGUST 17, 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: 490	Engines: 11	Helicopters: 5	Hand Crews: 10

CURRENT STATUS

Crews continued wood chipping along the eastern side of the fire and along roads within the Marshall Creek Wildlife Management Area. Crews removed hose lays and pumps around Beaver Lake and readied them for future use. Mop-up continued throughout the fire area with emphasis on cooling the remaining heat in heavy and dead fuels along the fire's perimeter. A helicopter assisted ground crews by removing sling loads of hoses and pumps from the fire line and returning the equipment to base camp. Two helicopters, assigned to the Colt Fire, assisted other incidents in the region.

An updated Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) covers a smaller area and the ceiling is now 9,500 feet. **The updated TFR will still be in effect 24 hours a day** due to continued night operations with the unmanned aerial system (UAS, i.e., "drone") conducting infrared flights looking for areas of heat along the fire's perimeter.

PLANNED ACTION

Chipping operations will continue along the eastern and southern fire perimeter. Firefighters will continue to seek out and mop up pockets of heat, assisted by data from the UAS, which can detect heat using infrared technology. Some crews are still constructing hand line along the fire's edge in areas where the fire burned in patches, leaving some areas burned and others not. Crews will continue to remove pumps and hoses along the contained areas around the fire. Aerial resources will be available to assist firefighting efforts, as conditions allow.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Wildfire smoke from the Big Knife Fire and other regional fires cooled temperatures by about 5 degrees yesterday and led to a slight increase in relative humidity. The fire area will likely see similar overhead smoke again today. The Fire Weather Watch has been moved to Friday as wind gusts up to 35 mph, relative humidity of 20 percent, and warm temperatures in the mid-80s are expected then. These conditions can facilitate increased fire behavior within the fire area. The chance of rain increases this weekend with lower temperatures expected.

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>.