



Smoke Outlook

Flathead Valley - Ridge, River Road East, Big Knife, and Additional Fires

8/27 - 8/28

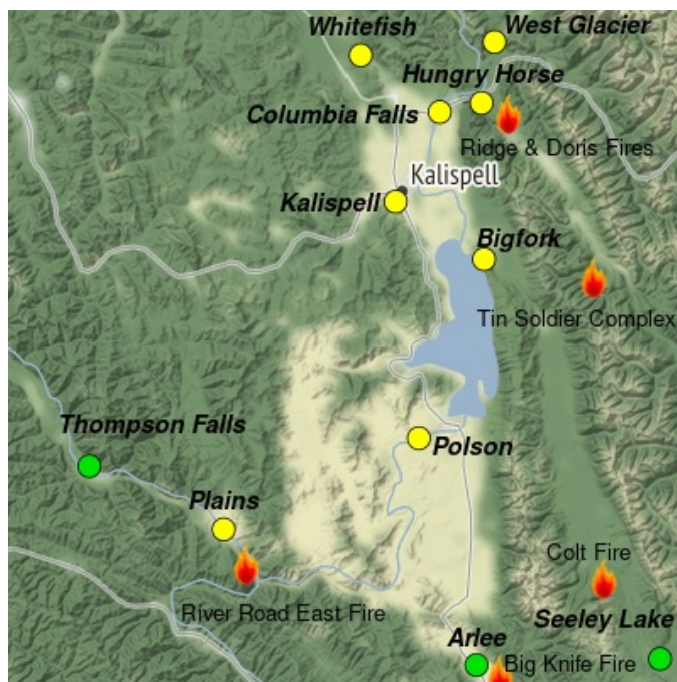
Issued by [Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program](#) on August 27, 2023 at 07:26 AM MDT

Fire

All local fires in NW Montana had very modest fire behavior yesterday. With another two+ days of hot, dry weather forecast, there may be an increase in creeping, smoldering, and some fire growth in those areas with the greatest potential for fire spread. Crews are continuing to make solid progress towards objectives on the River Road East, Ridge, Doris, Tin Soldier Complex, and Big Knife fires.

Smoke

For today, the bulk of wildfire smoke in the western US looks to remain close to the Pacific ocean and not affect NW Montana. Conditions here have been hovering between GOOD and MODERATE, and that will continue. There is not enough air movement to "flush" out what haze we do have, so expect yellow AQI (MODERATE) conditions at most locations for most of the day. This will look like haziness and slightly reduced visibility. Monday and early Tuesday may see haze and smoke increasing in our area, but that should hopefully be short lived, as a cold wet storm will bring GOOD air quality by Tuesday night.



Daily AQI Forecast* for Sunday

Station	Yesterday hourly			Sat 8/26	Comment for Today -- Sun, Aug 27	Forecast*	
	6a	noon	6p			Sun 8/27	Mon 8/28
Kalispell	No hourly data				MODERATE conditions most of the day today.	●	●
Bigfork	No hourly data				GOOD to MODERATE air quality today.	●	●
West Glacier	No hourly data				Very light haze most of the day.	●	●
Polson /Pablo	No hourly data				MODERATE conditions most of the day today.	●	●
Whitefish	No hourly data				GOOD to MODERATE air quality today.	●	●
Arlee				●	GOOD to MODERATE air quality today.	●	●
Thompson Falls				●	GOOD to MODERATE air quality today.	●	●
Plains	No hourly data				Smoke and haze around Plains, MODERATE air quality.	●	●
Hungry Horse	No hourly data				MODERATE conditions most of the day today.	●	●
Columbia Falls				●	MODERATE conditions most of the day today.	●	●
Seeley Lake				●	GOOD to MODERATE air quality today.	●	●

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Air Quality Index (AQI)	Actions to Protect Yourself
● Good	None
● Moderate	Unusually sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged or heavy exertion.
● USG	People within Sensitive Groups* should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.
● Unhealthy	People within Sensitive Groups* should avoid all physical outdoor activity.
● Very Unhealthy	Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
● Hazardous	Everyone should avoid any outdoor activity.

***Disclaimer:** This forecast is based on fine particulates only; ozone is not included. Forecasts may be wrong; use at own risk. Use caution as conditions can change quickly. See your health professional as needed. Smoke sensitive groups should take appropriate precautions.

Additional Links

[Fire and Smoke Map real time air quality info](#) -- <https://fire.airnow.gov>

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Issued by Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program -- www.wildlandfiresmoke.net
Flathead Valley Updates -- <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/78e08155>

*Smoke and Health Info -- www.airnow.gov/air-quality-and-health