



MINNESOTA INCIDENT COMMAND
SYSTEM (MNICS)

INCIDENT COMMANDER: JEB BACKE

Bowles Creek Fire

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and Bitterroot National Forest

Fire Information: 406-426-9130

Email: 2023.bowlescreek@firenet.gov

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Bowles-Creek-Fire-Information>

<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/mtbdf-bowles-creek>

August 7, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Location: 3 miles west of Skalkaho Pass in the Bowles Creek drainage

Start Date: 7/20/2023

Cause: Lightning

Size: 3559 acres

Containment: 3%

Total Personnel: 231

Engines: 4

Helicopters: 1

Hand Crews: 5

Crews continue to extend fire lines, and chip and masticate trees and brush reducing available fuel.

CURRENT SITUATION & PLANNED ACTIONS

On the west side crews continue fire line construction and chipping along Forest Road 711 to serve as an indirect (away from the fire's edge) control line for containment.

On the east side, crews continue constructing fire lines. Crews on both sides will continue scouting for more areas to treat and establish more containment opportunities, especially in the south and west portion of the area.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Cool and unsettled weather continues to dominate fire behavior with minimal activity. Holdover fire is creeping and smoldering in timber drainages with a heavy dead, down, and standing component due to beetle kill. In areas where the fire is burning into previous fire footprints, the fire activity will be holding over in heavy fuels and dry duff pockets.

Dead fuel moisture levels are increasing with cloudy, cooler, humid temperatures, but will reverse and become drier as forecasted hotter and drier temperatures return later in the week.

CLOSURES

The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and Bitterroot National Forest issued an emergency closure of roads and trails (Closure #02-08-23-19) effective July 25, 2023. This Order is for public and firefighter safety during fire suppression efforts of the Bowles Creek Fire. See the following link for a complete listing of the roads and trails listed in the closure: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/bdnf/alerts-notice/?aid=81818>. Closure information and maps are posted on the Forests' website and the fire's Inciweb page as they are in place.

The Skalkaho Pass Road remains open. Those recreating or traveling in the fire area are encouraged to be aware of the situation and to pay attention to increased fire traffic.

A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) is in effect over the fire area for the safety of the aviation resources.