



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.nwgc.gov/incident-information/mtbdf-bowles-creek>

August 1, 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:** 2,876 acres **Completion/Containment:** 3%

Total Personnel: 228 **Engines:** 4 **Helicopters:** 1 **Hand Crews:** 4

Fire Danger is VERY HIGH on both forests (Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF and Bitterroot NF).

CURRENT SITUATION & PLANNED ACTIONS

Last night, an infrared mapping flight showed an increase of 1,162 acres for a new size of 2,876 acres. On the west side of the fire, along the northwest edge of the fireline, hose lay and sprinklers will be utilized by hand crews to support suppression efforts. Heavy equipment and masticators completed indirect fuel break along Forest Road 711A, on the west edge of the fire, for containment objectives. Minimal fire growth occurred on the southwest edge.

On the east of the fire, heavy equipment continues work on fuel breaks and indirect fireline construction along Forest Road 5071 towards Forest Road 5070 and hand crews improve fireline behind equipment for potential containment. Fire personnel will continue scouting for containment opportunities to the North and South. High winds and lower relative humidity caused increased fire activity towards the east and south edge of the fire. Fire growth has expanded northeast across Bowles Creek and has crossed Forest Trail 313 to the southeast.

Fire personnel are utilizing helicopters as needed to support operations on both ends of the fire area.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Fuels are drying out quickly with the hot, dry, and windy conditions in the fire area. Temperatures will remain in the 80's and winds from the south 5-15 mph with gusts up to 20 mph. Tuesday is forecasted to continue warming with temperatures in the 80s and humidity in the 5-15 percent range. Wednesday, the warm and dry trend will carry into early next week. Smoke is moving in from various fires in the region, for more information visit www.airnow.gov or www.montanawildfiresmoke.org.

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 reduce speed due to increased fire traffic.

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