



MINNESOTA INCIDENT COMMAND
SYSTEMS (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 6, 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

Completion: 3%

Total Personnel: 236

Engines: 3

Helicopters: 2

Hand Crews: 6

Change of Command occurred today as the Minnesota Incident Command System Team (MNICS) assumed responsibilities of the fire with Jeb Backe the new Incident Commander.

CURRENT SITUATION & PLANNED ACTIONS

On the west side crews continue fire line construction and improvement work along Forest Road 711 to serve as an indirect control line for containment.

On the east side, crews continue constructing a fire line. They anticipate completion in the next few days. Crews on both sides will continue scouting for more areas to treat and establish more effective containment opportunities.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Cooler and wetter weather is expected to continue through first part of week. Associated thunderstorms could result in up to half an inch of precipitation falling in the fire area. Return of hotter and drier weather later mid-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.