



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 8, 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: 5%

Total Personnel: 231

Engines: 4

Helicopters: 1

Hand Crews: 5

Cooler, wetter weather is expected to continue until midweek, when returning drier conditions will decrease fuels moisture content.

CURRENT SITUATION & PLANNED ACTIONS

Crews along the western edge of the fire area continue to extend handlines and fuel breaks into existing fuel treatment areas.

Crews along the eastern edge of the fire have laid almost 10,000 feet of hose and continue constructing fire lines. Crews continue to remove understory fuels in the Crystal Creek area. Crews on both sides will continue scouting for more areas to treat and establish more containment opportunities, especially in the south and west portions of the area.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

The forecast calls for a slight change in the weather over the next few days, with a chance of light rain during the afternoon and evening hours today and tomorrow. Wednesday's weather is predicted to reach the mid 60 degrees with increased wind gusts, significantly reducing moisture content in fuels.

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-notices/?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.