



NORTHERN ROCKIES TEAM 9 INCIDENT COMMANDER: SHANE MARTIN

Ridge Fire

Flathead National Forest, Hungry Horse Ranger District

Fire Information 406-998-6074 2023.ridge@firenet.gov
inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/mtfnf-ridge-fire
August 8, 2023

Location: 6 miles southeast of Hungry Horse, MT

Start Date: 7/30/23 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 2,940 acres **Containment:** 0%.

Total Personnel: 198 **Engines:** 5 **Dozers:** 3 **Hand Crews:** 5 **Water Tenders:** 6

KEY MESSAGE

Hungry Horse Reservoir is CLOSED effective August 8th, 2023. To provide for public and firefighter safety, FS Road #38 (East Side Road #38) is closed to all public traffic east of the junction of FS Road #497 (Desert Mountain Road) and East Side Road #38. West Side South Fork Road #895 will be closed starting from the Hungry Horse Dam Visitor Center. The road will remain open approximately 800 feet south of the west abutment of Hungry Horse Dam to facilitate traffic flow. Pre-evacuation notice in effect for private property along SF Abbot Creek on the west side of the fire.

CURRENT SITUATION

Current acreage is at 2,940 acres, an increase of 167 acres. Indirect (away from the fire) suppression efforts are being prioritized on the west side of the fire to protect critical infrastructure and private property. This is a full suppression fire, but options to engage the fire directly are limited due to heavy fuel (vegetation) and steep terrain. Firefighter and public safety is the top priority.

Yesterday, heavy equipment continued constructing the fuel break on the west side of the fire along the Hard Money Road between private property and Forest Service land. Hand crews completed the fuel break along the East Side Road #38, from the junction of East Side Road #38 and Desert Mountain Road to the Emery Creek drainage. Structure protection assessments and coordination were conducted for private property in Coram, Martin City, and Hungry Horse.

Today, heavy equipment, including masticators, dozers, and skidders, will continue implementing the fuel break near the Hard Money Road working north towards Highway 2. This fuel break is used to decrease fire intensity to private property if it were to reach this area and provide suppression options. Two Interagency hotshot crews arrived today. These crews, along with a dozer, will be opening up existing roads near the East Side Road to check the fire's spread. Structure protection assessments and coordination will continue for private property in Martin City, Coram and Hungry Horse.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Showers and thunderstorms possible in afternoons through Wednesday with increased humidities. No wetting rain is expected. Fire activity has been low the past few days on all sides of the fire and is expected to remain low today. The fire is burning in heavy fuels and steep terrain.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

A Complex Incident Management Team is assuming command of the fire tomorrow. Residents should stay alert for changing conditions and **visit ready.gov/wildfires** for preparing for wildfires. For up-to-date information on the Ridge Fire, please visit Inciweb, Flathead National Forest Facebook, and Flathead County Sheriff's Office Facebook for evacuation information.