



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 9, 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

Highway 38, Skalkaho Road remains open, but has a lot of fire vehicle traffic and personal vehicles. Travelers should be aware of the increased traffic, slow down, and yield to fire vehicles and equipment.

CURRENT SITUATION & PLANNED ACTIONS

Crews along the western edge of the fire area continue to fortify and extend handlines along FS Road 711 and towards Railroad Creek. They continue strengthening fuel breaks into existing fuel treatment areas.

Crews along the eastern edge continue to utilize hand crews to construct a fuel break along FS road 5071 north towards highway 38. They are continuing to masticate and remove fuel along FS road 5035 and 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 sections of the area.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Today's fire activity is expected to increase, with winds gusting up to 30 miles per hour and temperatures reaching the mid-60 to lower 70 degrees. These factors will significantly reduce moisture content in fuels. The chance of late afternoon and evenings thunderstorms and light rain is also in the forecast.

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.