



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](mailto:2023.bowlescreek@firenet.gov)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Bowles-Creek-Fire-Information>

<https://inciweb.nwccg.gov/incident-information/mtbdf-bowles-creek>

**August 10, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.**

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**Location:** 3 miles west of Skalkaho Pass in the Bowles Creek drainage

**Start Date:** 7/20/2023

**Cause:** Lightning

**Size:** 3589 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 on both the western and eastern sides of the fire have completed masticating and chipping actions in targeted areas to remove excess fuel. They continue strengthening fuel breaks into existing fuel treatment areas. Preparing for the anticipated hotter, drier weather, personnel are scouting for more areas to treat and establish more containment opportunities, especially in the south and west sections of the area.

Those recreating or traveling in or through the fire area are encouraged to be aware of the situation and to pay attention to increased fire traffic. There are also several zones of public road repair in the local area. Private vehicles should yield to fire traffic and be extremely cautious in construction zones.

## WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

The weather forecast calls for a warming and drying trend through the weekend, with today's temperature reaching the low 70 degrees and relative humidity in the mid-30s. The fuel moisture content continues to decrease, leading to increased fire activity.

## 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.