



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 11, 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: 3711 acres

Completion: 5%

Total Personnel: 231

Engines: 4

Helicopters: 1

Hand Crews: 5

Warmer and drier temperatures are leading to increased fire activity and may increase smoke levels. 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.

CURRENT SITUATION & PLANNED ACTIONS

Crews have completed shaded fuelbreak on the eastern portion of the fire on the FS Road 5071. They continue to scout 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 drive cautiously and yield to increased fire traffic. Also be aware of road construction and traffic delays. Expect limited visibility in areas of increased smoke.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Today's weather is the beginning of a warming and drying trend expected to extend through the weekend. More fuel is becoming available as the relative humidity continues to decrease, leading to increased fire activity and possibility of single tree torching.

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.