



MINNESOTA INCIDENT COMMAND
SYSTEM (MNICS)

INCIDENT COMMANDER: JEB BACKE

Bowles Creek Fires

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 12, 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: 3738 acres

Completion: 5%

Total Personnel: 221

Engines: 5

Helicopters: 1

Hand Crews: 4

Highway 38, Skalkaho Road remains open but may have reduced speeds because of high volume of weekend travel and presence of fire vehicle traffic. As forecasted warmer and drier weather continues through the weekend, smoke levels may increase and reduce visibility. Travelers are encouraged to slow down and yield to fire vehicles and equipment.

CURRENT SITUATION & PLANNED ACTIONS

Crews on the east side continue to construct a fuel break within the fire area and are starting to chip and create a shaded fuel break along FS Road 5070 south towards Sand Basin Creek. Personnel also continue to remove snags in the Crystal Creek area. The crews on the west side continue to remove excess fuel down Railroad Creek and fortify the fire line.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Moderate fire activity potential increasing as continued warmer and dryer weather reduces the relative humidity levels to less than 25 percent. Forecast temperatures may exceed 80 degrees and wind gusts up to 15 miles per hour.

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.