



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 14, 2023

Location: 27 miles southwest of Phillipsburg, Montana

Start Date: 7/20/2023

Cause: Lightning

Size: 3,980 acres

Completion: 5%

Total Personnel: 211

Engines: 6

Helicopters: 2

Hand Crews: 4

Highway 38, Skalkaho Road remains open, and the public is reminded to reduce speeds because of the presence of fire apparatus, school buses and dusty conditions. As forecasted warmer and drier weather continues through the week, smoke levels may increase and reduce visibility.

CURRENT SITUATION & PLANNED ACTIONS

Crews on the east side continue to construct a fuel break in the fire area. Chipping operations continue along FS Road 5070 south towards Sand Basin Creek. Snag removal operations continue in the Crystal Creek area. The crews on the west side continue to secure the line down to Railroad Creek, fortify the fire line and install hose lays. Crews continue to evaluate values at risk and mitigate as needed.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

A high-pressure system will move into the area through midweek and produce hot and dry conditions. Today temperatures will climb into the low 80s, with Relative Humidity around 15%.

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.