



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 19, 2023

Location: 27 miles southwest of Philipsburg, Montana

Start Date: 7/20/2023 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 6,847 acres **Completion:** 20%

Total Personnel: 202 **Engines:** 6 **Helicopters:** 2 **Hand Crews:** 5

Management of the Bowles Creek Fire will transition to Great Basin Team 3 tomorrow, August 20, 2023.

The Bowles Creek Fire is currently at 6,847 acres. A red flag warning was in place yesterday. Fire activity was expected to increase. The area received up to a third of an inch of rain limiting fire activity. Fire activity will increase in the coming days. Fire crews will continue to monitor fire activity. Motorists traveling on Hwy 38, Skalkaho Road, are urged to drive with caution as firefighters will be present along the roadway as they continue fire operations.

CURRENT SITUATION & PLANNED ACTIONS

Precipitation reduced significant activity. Lower temperatures and higher humidities are expected through the weekend and into Monday, fire crews continue to construct fuel breaks along several roads and other values at risk. Fire officials continue to monitor fire spread and fire behavior as weather conditions change. Firefighters are utilizing firing operations to strengthen containment lines. Fire crews increased road patrols to better monitor spotting and spreading.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Increasing cloud cover and atmospheric moisture will help keep humidity levels higher than the last few days. A chance of rain and thunderstorms will exist today and tomorrow afternoon and evenings, rain is expected late Sunday as the remnants of Hurricane Hilary shift northward into the region. Winds will start out of the west on Saturday, then shift to easterly component going into Sunday. Fire activity is expected to be limited for the next few days.

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. For a complete listing of the closed roads and trails, visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/bdnf/alerts-notice/?aid=81818>. Closure information and maps are also posted on the Forests' website and the fire's Inciweb page. 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.