



NEVADA TEAM 3
INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM

INCIDENT COMMANDER: TIM HOWELL

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 21, 2023

Location: 27 miles southwest of Philipsburg, Montana

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

Total Personnel: 154 **Engines:** 5 **Helicopters:** 2 **Hand Crews:** 2

The Nevada Team 3 Incident Management Team is managing the Bowles Creek Fire.

The Bowles Creek Fire is currently at 6,847 acres. Motorists traveling on Hwy 38, Skalkaho Road, are urged to drive with caution as firefighters will be present along the roadway.

CURRENT SITUATION & PLANNED ACTIONS

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 and fuels reduction work to strengthen containment lines and continue to monitor values at risk for spotting and fire spread.

The fire completion remains at 20% as the objective of confinement and point zone protection continues. Percent completion of objectives more accurately captures and reports the specific amount of work accomplished on the ground to manage fire spread and reduce the negative impacts to communities, infrastructure, and other identified values. By using percent completion of objectives, fire managers can better illustrate how accomplishment of identified objectives and priorities are progressing.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

With lower temperatures, increased relative humidity, and precipitation, fire activity is limited. Wetting rain and thunderstorms are expected Tuesday throughout the fire region. The area will experience southerly winds today, 30 to 40 mph with gusts up to 60 mph expected through Tuesday morning. Precipitation and high humidities of 71-76% will keep fire activity minimal until a drying trend begins starting Wednesday.

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.