



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](mailto:2023.bowlescreek@firenet.gov)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Bowles-Creek-Fire-Information>

<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/mtbdf-bowles-creek>

August 22, 2023

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**Location:** 27 miles southwest of Philipsburg, Montana

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

**Total Personnel:** 167    **Engines:** 5    **Helicopters:** 2    **Hand Crews:** 4

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

**The Bowles Creek Fire is currently at 6,847 acres. After several days of rain, the area will have a few days of drying, which may increase fire activity and cause smoke to impact nearby roads. Motorists traveling on Hwy 38, Skalkaho Road, should be aware firefighters continue to be present along the roadway and to drive with caution.**

## CURRENT SITUATION & PLANNED ACTIONS

Point protection and confinement are the suppression strategies being used due to values at risk and safety concerns. Fire crews continue to construct fuel breaks along roads and other values at risk. Fire officials continue to analyze and assess fire behavior as weather conditions change. Firefighters are utilizing firing operations and fuels reduction work to strengthen lines and continue to monitor values at risk.

The fire completion remains at 20% as the objectives of confinement and point zone protection continue. 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 forecasted higher temperatures, lower relative humidity, and decreased precipitation, fire behavior may become active again. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected Tuesday and the area will experience 12 to 14 mph southwest winds today through Wednesday morning. Precipitation of .11 inches of rain with humidities of 49-54% 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.