



NEVADA TEAM 3  
INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM

INCIDENT COMMANDER: ANDY BERTELSON

# Bowles Creek Fire

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and Bitterroot National Forest

Fire Information: 406-426-9130

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

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

August 23, 2023

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

**Start Date:** 7/20/2023    **Cause:** Lightning    **Size:** 6,847 acres    **Completion:** 23%

**Total Personnel:** 172    **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. The fire completion has increased to 23%. Fire crews along Hwy 38 continue to work in the area. Motorists are urged to drive slowly and with caution. The public should also be aware the area will see a drying trend over the next several days, which may increase fire activity and smoke along the roadways.

## CURRENT SITUATION & PLANNED ACTIONS

The fire completion has increased to 23% 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.

Suppression strategies being used include point protection and confinement due to values at risk and safety concerns. Fire crews continue to construct and strengthen fuel breaks along roads and other values at risk. Fire behavior is continuously being monitored by fire managers. Firefighters are utilizing firing operations and fuels reduction work to strengthen lines. Crews are also scouting and looking for further opportunities to strengthen lines.

## WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Wednesday may see a slight chance of rains showers in the morning and potential for thunderstorms in the afternoon. Fuels contribute to fire movement and behavior after several days of drying. With later week weather forecasts predicted to bring higher temperatures, lower relative humidity, and decreased precipitation, fire behavior may become active again.

## 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.