



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

Email: 2023.bowlescreek@firenet.gov

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

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

August 24, 2023

Location: 27 miles southwest of Philipsburg, Montana

Start Date: 7/20/2023 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 6,985 acres **Completion:** 23%

Total Personnel: 165 **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 6,985 acres. Fire crews remain present along Hwy 38. Construction crews will also be present on Hwy 38, as road grading is occurring today to mitigate for the increased traffic on the road. Additionally, due to recent rain and winds, several fallen snags have been removed from Hwy 38 over the last day. Motorists in the area should be aware of the potential for falling snags and increased personnel and equipment on the roadway.

CURRENT SITUATION & PLANNED ACTIONS

Completion of fire management objectives remains at 23%. Fire personnel continue to work on confinement and point zone protection to protect values at risk. Fire crews continue to construct and strengthen fuel breaks along roads and other areas of value. Fire behavior is continuously being monitored by fire managers. Firefighters are utilizing firing operations and fuels reduction work to strengthen lines. Fire crews continue cold trailing along the southeastern portion of the fire. Cold trailing is a method of controlling a partly dead fire edge by carefully inspecting and feeling with the hand for heat to detect any fire, digging out every live spot, and trenching any live edge. This will ensure future firing operations in the area safely meet management objectives.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

A warming and drying trend will begin today, as high pressure builds into the region. The area will experience westerly wind gusts of 15 to 20 mph after noon today. Winds are expected to shift throughout the day. There is a slight chance of thunderstorms throughout the day tomorrow. Current fire behavior continues to smolder and creep. However, fuels may contribute to increased 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.