



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 25, 2023

Location: 27 miles southwest of Philipsburg, Montana

Start Date: 7/20/2023 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 6,985 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 6,985 acres. Fire crews remain present along Hwy 38, Skalkaho Road. Motorists traveling in the area should be aware of increased traffic and fire operations.

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. Firefighters are utilizing firing operations and fuels reduction work to strengthen lines, as well as continuing to prep areas for potential future firing operations. Additionally, firefighters are scouting contingency plans in the event fire activity increases and impacts Hwy 38.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Thunderstorms and precipitation will pass through the area later this afternoon, with occasional heavy rain and gusts up to 40 mph, starting at 3:00p.m. to 6:00 p.m. After 6:00p.m., thunderstorm and chance of precipitation diminishes. Friday will be warm with afternoon relative humidities into the 30s. A warming and drying trend returns over the weekend. Fire activity continues to exhibit mostly smoldering and creeping, with some single tree torching observed along the northeastern area of the fire.

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.