



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 26, 2023

Location: 27 miles southwest of Philipsburg, Montana

Start Date: 7/20/2023 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 6,988 acres **Completion:** 23%

Total Personnel: 163 **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 6,988 acres. Fire crews remain present along Hwy 38, Skalkaho Road. Motorists traveling on the road are urged to drive with caution as firefighters will be present along the roadway. Additionally, because of the increased precipitation and winds in the area, multiple trees have fallen along Hwy 38. Motorists should remain vigilant while driving.

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. Structure protection remains a priority as fire personnel and cooperators develop contingency plans to mitigate any future fire risk. Firefighters continue to construct fuel breaks and monitor fire behavior and improve indirect line as needed.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Today will trend warmer and drier, with general light west to northwest winds. Temperatures throughout the day will remain between 71 and 76. There is a chance for another round of thunderstorms between 3:00p.m. and 7:00 p.m. this evening. The fire continues to produce several areas of heat on the southern perimeter of the fire. Firefighters will continue to patrol and monitor the existing fireline and perimeter.

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. 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.

Reassessment of closure areas occurs on a regular basis. Temporary closures are implemented during wildfire events to protect working firefighters and outdoor enthusiasts recreating in the area. Once fire officials determine the area is safe to reopen, closure orders will be adjusted.