



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 28, 2023

Location: 27 miles southwest of Philipsburg, Montana

Start Date: 7/20/2023 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 6,988 acres **Completion:** 28%

Total Personnel: 154 **Engines:** 3 **Helicopters:** 2 **Hand Crews:** 5

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 will be present along Hwy 38, Skalkaho Road, as fire operations and fire rehabilitation work continue. Motors are urged to drive slowly and be aware of increased fire traffic.

CURRENT SITUATION & PLANNED ACTIONS

Completion of fire management objectives remains at 28%. Due to limited fire activity, fire personnel are beginning to focus on suppression rehabilitation to mitigate adverse resource effects resulting from fire suppression activities. Crew will focus on protection of wilderness study areas and roadless characteristics, surface erosion control, weed suppression, maintenance of forest improvements, and developed and undeveloped recreation sites. Sitework will encompass previously built handlines and other contingency lines, safety zones, drop points, fueling locations, spike camps, heliwells, and helispots (both related to helicopter operations).

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

There is a low chance of lightning and very low chance of wetting rain in the fire area tonight. A week thunderstorm may develop nearby this afternoon, with mostly sunny skies otherwise. Thunderstorms will build into Tuesday night and the area will see overnight rains into Wednesday. Low fire behavior and activity has been observed and there are no containment concerns.

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.