



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](mailto:2023.bowlescreek@firenet.gov)

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

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

August 29, 2023

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

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

**Total Personnel:** 151    **Engines:** 3    **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 will be present along Hwy 38, Skalkaho Road, as fire operations and fire rehabilitation work continue. Motorist are urged to be aware of falling branches and debris as thunderstorms and wind gusts of 35-50 mph gusts after 1400. A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) has been removed and aviation is permitted over the fire area.**

## CURRENT SITUATION & PLANNED ACTIONS

The fire completion has increased to 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. Crews are focusing on rehabilitating Sand Basin Road with heavy equipment before upcoming inclement rain approaches. Protection of wilderness study areas and roadless characteristics, surface erosion control, weed suppression, maintenance of forest improvements, and developed and undeveloped recreation sites are planned for the remainder of this week. 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

A Pacific storm moves into the Northern Rockies on Tuesday bringing atmospheric instability. There is a 35 – 50% chance of thunderstorms coming from the southwest after 2pm and a 50% chance of lightning. This trend will continue into the evening between 6-7 pm. Rain will continue overnight into Wednesday with high probabilities of a wetting rain.

## 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.

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.



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