



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 31, 2023

Location: 27 miles southwest of Philipsburg, Montana

Start Date: 7/20/2023 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 6,988 acres **Completion:** 37%

Total Personnel: 141 **Engines:** 3 **Helicopters:** 1 **Hand Crews:** 4

The Nevada Team 3 Incident Management Team will be transferring command of the Bowles Creek fire to the Bitterroot and Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forests on September 4th. All future updates will be posted to the Forest Facebook pages and the Inciweb site. Frequency of updates will be dictated by fire activity and/or changes to operations and closures.

The Bowles Creek Fire is currently at 6,988 acres. Fire crews will be present along Hwy 38, Skalkaho Road, as fire suppression repair work along firelines, roads, trails, safety zones, and drop points continues. This work involves immediate post-fire actions taken to minimize environmental impacts resulting from fire suppression activities.

CURRENT SITUATION & PLANNED ACTIONS

Completion of fire management objectives has increased to 37%. The fire danger is below normal due to recent rains and predicted weather. Firefighters are focusing on suppression repair to mitigate adverse resource effects resulting from fire suppression activities. Firefighters will continue to patrol and monitor existing fire line and fire perimeter. Active fire growth is diminishing, but with a future drying trend, increased smoke may be visible at times. Hot spots within the fire's perimeter will continue to smolder until extinguished naturally by repeated rain and snow.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Dry weather with a mix of sun and clouds will occur Thursday as high pressure builds into the region. Expect slightly warmer temperatures with relative humidity at 30-35%. Southwest winds will be at 6-12 mph and a drying trend will continue through the weekend.

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.