



Tin Soldier Complex Fact Sheet

Flathead National Forest Land Management

FLATHEAD INTERAGENCY TYPE 3 TEAM

INCIDENT COMMANDER: MIKE WEST

Fire Information: 406-758-6458

Email: 2023.tinsoldiercomplex@firenet.gov

<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/mtfnf-tin-soldier-complex>

Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 9:00 am

Location: 17 miles east of Swan Lake, Montana

Start Date: 7/30/2023

Cause: Lightning

Size: 2,632 acres

Containment: 0%

Total Personnel: 70

Engines: 3

Type 2 IA Crew: 1

Masticators: 1

Water Tender: 1

Heavy Equipment Task Force: 1

Note: Additional personnel from the Spotted Bear District are “on loan” and assisting with fire related operations. Priority will be given for initial attack if any other fires on the Spotted Bear District are detected.

ATTENTION

Hungry Horse Reservoir is closed to the public as of August 8, 2023. All National Forest System lands in the area and FS Road #38 (East Side Road #38) and FS Road #895 (West Side South Fork Road #895) will be closed to public use for public and firefighter safety.

SUMMARY

The Tin Soldier Complex is estimated at 2,632 acres in size and remains 0% contained. There was no IR flight last night therefore an update on acreage is not available at this time.

Acres burned as of the morning of Thursday, August 10th.

- Bruce Fire – 993 acres at 0% containment
- Kah Mtn Fire – 430 acres at 0% containment
- Sullivan Fire – 1,209 acres at 0% containment
- Con Kelly Fire – 0.25 acres – Out.

The Bruce, Kah and Sullivan fires are being managed with point source protection to protect values at risk. Values at risk include Stony Communications Site, hydro-electric plant, Heinrude residential community, commercial guest ranches and the Spotted Bear Ranger Station compound.

PAST AND PLANNED ACTIONS

Today's actions will include ongoing structure protection efforts for the Spotted Bear Ranch, Diamond R Ranch, Spotted Bear Ranger Station compound, and the Heinrude residential community. Mechanical equipment continues to establish a fuel break to the south and re-establish fuel breaks to the north end in the area around the community. Additionally, fire personnel continue to lay hose line and sprinklers around structures within the Heinrude community. A crew will resume work to wrap the Spotted Bear Lookout.

EVACUATIONS, CLOSURES AND RESTRICTIONS

Evacuation: An evacuation has been issued by the Flathead County Sheriff for Heinrude community.

Restrictions/Closures:

- Stage 2 fire restrictions are in effect as of August 5th.
- An area closure is in effect for the Hungry Horse Reservoir, the front country of the Spotted Bear district as well the Gorge Creek drainage within the Bob Marshall Wilderness area, including Feather, Inspiration, Gorge, Canyon Trickle, and Stadium Creeks.
- A Temporary Flight Restriction is in place for air space over the Tin Soldier Complex to provide a safe environment for firefighting aircraft operating in the area. This includes the Spotted Bear and Meadow Creek Airstrips! Remember that temporary flight restrictions also apply to UAS or drones. **If you fly, we can't!**

WEATHER

A cold front moved through the fire area yesterday afternoon, bringing one-tenth of an inch of rain and strong winds. Today is expected to be cooler, but breezy. Winds are forecasted this afternoon to shift from the southwest to the west with gusts up to 40 MPH on ridges and 25 MPH in the valleys. Temperatures are expected to be in the mid-70's through the rest of the week. A warming and drying trend is anticipated beginning on Friday into the weekend.