



Tin Soldier Complex Fact Sheet

Flathead National Forest Land Management

FLATHEAD INTERAGENCY TYPE 3 TEAM

INCIDENT COMMANDER: MIKE WEST

Fire Information: 406-758-5376

Email: 2023.tinsoldiercomplex@firenet.gov

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

Saturday, August 12, 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.

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 Saturday, August 12th.

- 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 will finish the fuel break to the south, continue establishing the fuel break to the north and start establishing a fuel break on the west side of the FS Road #895 in the area around the community. Additionally, fire personnel have finished laying in 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 warming and drying trend will continue through this weekend into mid next week. A weak weather system will pass through on Saturday which will result in increased cloud cover and breezy afternoon winds from the west. By Saturday evening, wind will shift from the west to a northeasterly direction. There is a slight chance of showers accompanying this wind shift Saturday night into Sunday morning. The high-pressure ridge will settle on Monday into mid next week. This will lead to much warmer temperatures Monday through Wednesday with relative humidities dropping down into the teens. By Tuesday, increasing winds and instability, along with hot and dry conditions, could cause elevated fire weather conditions.