



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>

Sunday, August 13, 2023, at 9:00 am

Location: 17 miles east of Swan Lake, Montana

Start Date: 7/30/2023

Cause: Lightning

Size: 2,694 acres

Containment: 0%

Total Personnel: 70

Engines: 3

Type 2 IA Crew: 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 2,694 acres in size and remains 0% contained. An IR flight found an increase of 62 acres over the last few days.

Acres burned as of the morning of Sunday, August 13th.

- Bruce Fire – 1002 acres at 0% containment
- Kah Mtn Fire – 451 acres at 0% containment
- Sullivan Fire – 1,241 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 finished the fuel break to the north and south of the Heinrude community and is continuing to establish a fuel break on the west side of FS Road #895. A crew is working today to complete wrapping 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.
- 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

Today is expected to be mostly sunny, with temperatures in the mid 80s. A wind shift to the northeast then east direction will occur tonight, with gusts up to 25 MPH possible on ridgetops. The warming and drying trend will begin in earnest Monday through mid-week. Wednesday will likely be the hottest and driest day, with the potential to present critical fire weather conditions.

FIRE PREVENTION

Dragging trailer safety chains can create sparks and start wildfires. Go to <https://www.mtfireinfo.org/> for fire prevention tips.

Make sure to use appropriate safety precautions to ensure you aren't the cause of a wildland fire:

- Ensure chains are attached correctly, chains should be crossed under the hitch to form an X.
- There should be at least 5 inches between the chains and the pavement.
- If the chains are too long, you can twist them a few times to shorten them.
- Use safety pins and hitch ball to secure chains.

Dial 911 to report a roadside fire.

