



# Tin Soldier Complex Fact Sheet

Flathead National Forest Land Management

FLATHEAD INTERAGENCY TYPE 3 TEAM

INCIDENT COMMANDER: MIKE WEST

Fire Information: 406-758-6458

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

**Tuesday, August 2, 2023, at 6:45 pm**

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**Location:** 17 miles east of Swan Lake, Montana

**Start Date:** 7/30/2023

**Cause:** Lightning

**Size:** 1,472 acres

**Containment:** 0%

**Total Personnel:** 40

**Engines:** 1

**Masticators:** 2

**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

**To provide for public and firefighter safety, the West Side South Fork Road #895 will be closed to public travel at the 42 mile and the East Side South Fork Road #38 will be closed to public travel at the 37.5 mile.**

## SUMMARY

The Tin Soldier Complex is made up of 4 fires burning in timber litter with heavy dead and down fuels associated with a fire scar from 2003. The Tin Soldier Complex is located on the Spotted Bear Ranger District of the Flathead National Forests, approximately 17 miles east of Swan Lake. Fire activity has included torching, spotting, and active consumption of heavy fuels. The fires associated with the Tin Soldier Complex started by lightning on Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup>.

Current Acres burned as of the morning of August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- Bruce Fire – 791 acres at 0% containment
- Kah Mtn Fire – 521 acres at 0% containment
- Sullivan Fire – 160 acres at 0% containment
- Con Kelly Fire – 0.25 acres – containment line has been established by rappellers. Bucket drops have been used to cool down areas of heat.

An overnight infrared flight mapped the Tin Soldier Complex at approximately 1,472 acres in size and it remains 0% contained. Fire activity on Monday increased late morning associated with higher temperatures and increased winds. The fires continued to actively burn and remained active during the night.

Fire personnel completed the containment line around the Con Kelly Fire. 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. Fire personnel started conducting initial assessments and preparations for structure protection in these identified areas.

## **PLANNED ACTIONS**

A masticator and dozer are being utilized to establish a fuel break around the Wilderness Lodge and the hydro-electric facility. Hose will be laid along the established fuel break around the Wilderness Lodge. Fire personnel are continuing their structure assessments for the Spotted Bear Ranch, Diamond R Ranch and the Spotted Bear Ranger Station compound.

## **EVACUATIONS, CLOSURES AND RESTRICTIONS**

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

### **Restrictions/Closures:**

- Stage 1 fire restrictions are currently in effect. Stage 2 fire restrictions will take effect on August 5, 2023.
- A road restriction is in effect for the West Side South Fork Road #895.
- A closure will be taking effect on August 2<sup>nd</sup> affecting the front country of the Spotted Bear district.