



River Road East Fire Fact Sheet

Friday, September 1, 2023 at 10:00 am



NORTHERN ROCKIES TEAM 1

INCIDENT COMMANDER: BRENT OLSON

Information Phone: 406-345-5972

<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/mtlnf-river-road-east-fire>

Email: 2023.RiverRoadEast@firenet.gov

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/riverroadeastfire>

Location: 6 miles southeast of Plains, Montana

Start Date: 8/18/2023

Cause: Unknown

Size: 17,230 acres

Containment: 35%

Total Personnel: 394

Crews: 8

Engines: 19

Helicopters: 5

KEY MESSAGE: Fire crews continue to work on containment of the fire, conducting mop up and patrols along the edge of the fire. As containment increases, there may still be areas of smoke and fire within the interior of the fire area. If you see smoke or fire, please verify if it is within the fire area before calling it in as a new fire. If there is fire threatening a structure or a fire outside of the fire area, then call.

CURRENT STATUS: Yesterday, crews patrolled and mopped up the north control lines above Henry's Creek and around Henry's Peak. Patrol and mop up also continued along the fire's northeast corner and east side along the forest and CSKT boundary. On the southeast corner, crews worked on direct control line construction while extinguishing hot spots. On the northwest corner, fire personnel patrolled and mopped up on the line where the burning operation was conducted a few days ago. Along the west side, crews continued clean-up work on the previously constructed shaded fuel break. On the southwest corner crews continued to work directly along the fire edge searching out and extinguishing hot spots. An Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) or drone was used for a short time to help provide information on areas of heat to the crews working on the southeast corner of the fire. Operations consolidated geographic division boundaries and began demobilizing excess firefighting resources to make them available for other high priority fires in the country.

PLANNED ACTIONS: Crews plan to continue the patrol and mop up work that has been ongoing along the north (Henry's Creek), northeast corner, and eastern (forest and CSKT boundary) sides of the fire area. Crews will return to the southeast corner of the fire to continue work on the direct control line where some heat remains. Fire personnel will work on removing some hazard trees that have been identified along River Road East. Hazard trees are trees that could potentially fall without warning because of fire weakened or impacted root systems. Clean up work along the western flank of the fire, north of Pat's Knob will also continue. Mop up work also remains on some of the control lines on the northwest corner of the fire. Crews will be working on those control lines again today. The number of personnel and equipment will continue to be right-sized for a smaller organization as containment increases and control lines are completed and secured.

WEATHER: The weather will be partly cloudy as temperatures warm slightly above seasonal norms. Temperatures will be 73-83 degrees. Minimum relative humidity levels will be 23-33%. Winds will be from the east at 10-15 mph on the ridge tops and from the northeast at 10-15 mph at lower elevation.

CLOSURES: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has a closure in place on segments of the Flathead River and Clark Fork River within and near the River Road East Fire area. Details can be found at Restrictions and Closures: <https://fwp.mt.gov/news/current-closures-restrictions>.

The Lolo National Forest has an emergency closure of roads and trails (**Closure #23-010-Lolo-D5**) effective August 21, 2023. This Order is for public and firefighter safety during fire suppression efforts of the River Road East Fire. For a complete listing of the closed roads & trails visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/lolo/alerts-notice>.

A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) is in effect over the fire (**FDC 3/9687**) for the safety of aviation resources.

