



River Road East Fire Fact Sheet



Sunday, September 3, 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: 17,310 acres

Containment: 54%

Total Personnel: 308

Crews: 7

Engines: 14

Helicopters: 3

KEY MESSAGE: Fire suppression repair is work done immediately following fire suppression actions to repair damages and minimize potential soil erosion and related impacts from the suppression actions. Suppression repair usually begins after a segment of containment line has held for several days and before the fire is fully contained. The repair work is completed on hand and dozer fire control lines, roads, trails, staging areas, safety zones, and drop points that were used during fire suppression efforts.

CURRENT STATUS: Yesterday, crews continued to monitor the containment lines along the north side of the fire above Henry's Creek and around Henry's Peak as well as around the northeast corner and along the eastern flank of the fire following the Lolo National Forest and CSKT boundary. No heat or smoke was observed along these containment lines. Direct control line work was completed by crews on the southeast corner of the fire where areas of heat near the line continued to be worked on by the crews. Containment and control lines were patrolled and monitored by crews on the northwest corner. On the west flank the Heavy Equipment Task Force continued to slowly work their way out of the area on the forest road coming down from Pat's Knob. The indirect control line shaded fuels break is in place on the west side and ready to be used if needed. On the southwest corner crews continued to work on constructing the fuels break as well as some hot spotting along the fire edge.

PLANNED ACTIONS: Crews will continue to monitor the northern, northeastern corner, and eastern containment lines where little to no fire activity has been seen along the fire edge. This includes the Henry's Creek and Henry's Peak areas as well as the forest and CSKT boundary. The southeastern corner of the fire will be patrolled and monitored throughout the day. Over on the northwest and west sides of the fire crews will patrol and monitor for any heat or smoke along the control line. The crews will continue working on an indirect control line on the southwest corner of the fire and might be able to finish that line in a couple of days. There are indirect control lines constructed on the west (north of Pat's Knob), southwest, and southeast sides of the fire. These indirect lines will remain in place if needed this fall. Crews will start working on some fire suppression repair on a few small sections of hand constructed control line along the north side of the fire.

WEATHER: The weather will be mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain. Temperatures will be 70-80 degrees in the valleys and 63-73 degrees on the ridges. Minimum relative humidity levels will be 39-49% in the valleys and 54-64% on the ridges. Winds will be from the west at 5-15 mph on the ridge tops and from the southwest at 5-15 mph at lower elevation.

CLOSURES: 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-notices>.

