



McElwain Fire

Southwestern Land Office

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Fire Protection - Clearwater Unit
USDI Bureau of Land Management Jurisdiction

Fire Information: Kristin Mortenson (406) 381-7451, Kristin.Mortenson@mt.gov

Incident Information: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mtmts-mcelwain-fire>

Friday, August 30, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Location: 10 miles west of Helmville, Montana

Start Date: 8/23/2024

Cause: Lightning

Size: 116 acres

Containment: 25%

CURRENT STATUS

The McElwain Fire, located 10 miles west of Helmville in Powell County, is burning in grass and timber on private and Bureau of Land Management land under Montana DNRC wildland fire protection. The fire was mapped via an infrared flight overnight and has been downsized to 116 acres. The flight also identified hot spots close to the line that firefighters will focus on today as they continue to secure all control line 100-150 feet deep. The fire is 25% contained.

The fire is comprised of two adjacent fires, a north fire, and a south fire. Fire behavior includes creeping and smoldering with isolated torching. Resources are being downsized to match the current fire demands and now include four engines, one eight-person hand crew (Module), one water tender, and two skidgines. A Type 2 DNRC helicopter is available for support if needed. With the downsizing of resources and reduced complexity, the fire will transition to a Type 4 incident this evening.

Future fire updates will be provided only on Inciweb unless conditions warrant otherwise.

WEATHER & FIRE BEHAVIOR

Hot and dry weather will occur through Labor Day weekend, with light variable winds. Above normal temperatures and minimum relative humidities in the teens and lower 20s are predicted through the weekend, heightening the concern for increased fire behavior. The next chance for precipitation will be late Monday and Tuesday.

EVACUATIONS AND CLOSURES

The Powell County Sheriff's Office has **lifted all evacuation warnings** in the area. Please visit the Powell County Sheriff's Office Facebook page for specific information and updates. The public is asked to use caution if travel is necessary in the area due to increased firefighting traffic.

Powell County is currently in Stage 1 fire restrictions, which does limit campfires. Residents and visitors are asked to be extra careful when outdoors to limit human caused sparks. We cannot control the lightning, but we can prevent unintended human caused wildfires. Visit www.MTFireInfo.org for specific fire restriction information and fire prevention tips.

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