



Horse River Wildfire Fire Update

May 26, 2025

Fire Information: 218-432-0953, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Inciweb: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/mnsuf-horse-river-fire>

Horse River Fire Quick Facts

Size: 9 acres **Location:** E. of the Horse River, Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

Containment: 0% **Cause:** Lightning **Resources:** Aircraft and 8 firefighters

Start Date: May 22, 2025

Planned Operations: Eight firefighters are on the fire, looking at opportunities to support suppression activities. The fire continues to creep and smolder. Firefighter and public safety remain the top priority, along with wilderness values, and cultural values. Public safety wilderness rangers continue to patrol the area assisting the public in fire awareness. Tonight, a National Incident Management Organization team will be arriving to take command of both the Jenkins Creek Fire and the Horse River Fire.

National Weather Service Forecast: Today-A chance of sprinkles between 1pm and 2pm, then a slight chance of showers after 2pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 70. Southeast wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%. **Tonight-** A chance of sprinkles before 7pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 41. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm after midnight. **Tomorrow-** Mostly sunny, with a high near 70. Calm wind becoming southeast around 5 mph in the afternoon.

Closures: An Emergency Forest Closure Order is in process to close the Winter Route Trail (mushing trail) between Jackfish Bay and Lower Basswood Falls. Paddlers in the area are advised to stay away from the area for their own safety. Currently, Basswood River and Horse River travel routes are open. Campsites on the Basswood River are still open. For public safety, the public should move directly through the area and be aware that conditions could change. Continue to follow the [fire's Inciweb page](#) for current incident fire details and updates.

Air Operations: Aircraft are available and may be brought in to help support the fire. A reminder - flying drones over the fire is prohibited. If drones are detected near the fire, any air operations supporting the fire will stop. Drones are illegal in federally designated wilderness areas.

Overview: On May 22, 2025, aircraft detected smoke east of the Horse River, within a remote part of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Initial acreage was estimated at 5-10 acres, with 2-4' flame lengths. Fire management staff identified the strike tree on a ridgetop where lightning struck, initiating the wildfire. The fire is burning in a mixed boreal forest with conifer (pine trees), and hardwood trees like birch and aspen. Blowdown is limited in the area. Ground access is very poor; safety of firefighters and the public are the top priorities.