

Banana Lake Fire

June 5, 2024



Fire Information: 406-370-9381
Email: 2025.bananalakefire@gmail.com
inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mtmts-banana-lake-fire



Start Date & Location: May 31, 2024 4 miles north of Plains, MT
Cause: Unknown, under investigation **Size:** 833 acres **Containment:** 25%
Personnel: 236 **Engines:** 14 **Helicopters:** 2 **Dozers:** 3 **Tenders:** 10

CURRENT STATUS AND PLANNED ACTIONS

Firefighters are continuing to patrol containment lines and extinguish areas of residual heat to secure the fire perimeter. In the northeast section of the fire, crews are concentrating on mop-up efforts around structures. These actions are especially important as temperatures rise and humidity drops, increasing the potential for flare-ups. When heat is located, firefighters are using hand tools and water to fully suppress smoldering fuels and eliminate the risk of reignition.

Much of the fire area experienced what's known as a "dirty burn," where patches of unburned or partially burned vegetation remain scattered among blackened ground. This creates a challenging environment for mop-up, as crews must carefully work through thick, uneven debris to find and extinguish residual heat. Helicopters are assisting ground crews with targeted water bucket drops in areas that are difficult to access or where heat is persistent.

Crews are using Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) to locate residual heat, which will then be extinguished to ensure the area is fully cold and out. Additionally, an initial attack division is ready to respond quickly should any new fire starts occur near the fire area. These proactive measures help ensure the fire remains within current containment lines and that any emerging threats are addressed promptly.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Fire activity remains minimal, with mostly creeping and smoldering observed across the area. The fire perimeter has been updated based on more accurate infrared mapping, resulting in a reduction in total acreage.

Weather conditions are expected to be mostly sunny Thursday, with above-normal temperatures. Relative humidity will drop to 16–21% during the day, and light upslope winds are likely to develop in the afternoon.

Friday will be warmer, with southwest winds picking up in the afternoon and gusts reaching around 20 mph.

EVACUATIONS AND CLOSURES

There are no evacuations or closures for the Banana Lake Fire at this time, but drivers on Highway 28 should expect reduced speed limits and use extra caution. Stay clear of the fire area and do not fly drones.

