



# Knowles Fire

Northwest Land Office

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Fire Information: 406-708-8525

[2025.knowles@firenet.gov](mailto:2025.knowles@firenet.gov)

<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mtmts-knowles-fire>

August 22, 2025



**Incident Commander** Shane Martin

**Location:** 6 miles east of Paradise, Montana

**Start Date:** 08/17/2025

Size: 2075 acres; Containment: 0%

236 Total Personnel; 5 Engines; 2 Hotshot Crews & 5 Hand Crews; Multiple Pieces of Heavy Equipment

## KEY MESSAGE

The westerly winds of the last few days have shifted and are now coming out of the east. This may cause smoke to fill the Highway 200 corridor and communities west of the Knowles Fire more than it has been in recent days. The direct actions of firefighters and the 2023 East River Road burned area maintain protection of the Paradise neighborhood from fire spreading east despite the wind change. Firefighters and equipment are working on protecting structures, Highway 200, and surrounding communities by keeping the fire as small as possible.

## CURRENT STATUS

The firefighters are taking advantage of the natural terrain and indirect fire breaks to bring the fire along the ridge east of Little Money Creek and down the ridge towards MM91 fire and tying into the Flathead River. The northwestern corner is being assessed for options to insert more crews and equipment to establish control lines. There is still direct action to protect the residences on that side of the fire. The western flank continues to have both direct and indirect lines to keep the fire from spreading. Increased fire behavior is expected as the fire moves toward the control lines. Aircraft support for the fire continues to be challenging due to escalating demands across the region.

The Sanders County Sheriff's pre-evacuation notice is still in place for residents in the McLaughlin area.

## WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Today will continue to be sunny, warm, and dry. Maximum temperatures will be 89 degrees at lower elevations of the fire and 79 degrees at upper elevations. Minimum relative humidity will be 22% and 27% at the lower and upper elevations, respectively. Winds are increasing out of the east and northeast 4 to 10 mph with gusts to 20 mph in the evening. Under these continued warm and dry conditions, the fire behavior will remain active.

## CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

The Full Curl Wildlife Management Area has an Emergency Site Closure. For details, see <https://myfwp.mt.gov/fwpPub/landsMgmt/siteDetail.action?lmsId=39754696>. Lolo National Forest has Road and Area Closures. For details and a map, see <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r01/lolo/alerts/knowles-fire-closure>. These closures are necessary to protect the safety and welfare of the public and provide for safe firefighting efforts and access. A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) is in place that restricts all aircraft (including drones) from operating in the fire area without permission.

