



Bivens Creek and Cloudrest Fires

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

Fire Information (406) 708-8520

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<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mtbdf-bivens-creek>

<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mtbdf-cloudrest>



August 22, 2025

Bivens Creek

Start: Reported 08/13/2025 around 6:16 p.m.

Cause: Lightning/Natural **Size:** 2,219 acres

Containment: 0% **Total Personnel:** 392

Cloudrest

Start: Reported 08/14/2025 around 3:44 p.m.

Cause: Lightning/Natural **Size:** 1,733 acres

Containment: 0% **Total Personnel:** 48

Location: Approximately 15 Miles NW of Virginia City, MT

KEY MESSAGE:

An infrared flight was completed and captured the current fire size and shape more accurately. Friday's concern is the wind. Winds typically come out of the southwest this time of year; however, winds are forecasted out of the northeast, pushing the fire in different directions and interacting with various terrain features. Firefighters are adjusting tactics to account for this while still protecting the primary values at risk. An Air Resource Advisor has been ordered to work with Madison County Public Health on air quality monitoring, as weather conditions will likely keep smoke at lower elevations. For air quality and smoke information, visit www.airnow.gov/wildfires/

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Conditions Friday will be slightly cooler, with a small improvement in relative humidity; however, managers do expect continued active fire growth as the standing dead trees and downed timber remain very dry. As mentioned, winds will be mainly northeast, with higher gusts at around 6 pm this evening. Fire activity on both fires has been active at night due to an atmospheric condition known as a thermal belt – warmer air gets trapped at the higher mountain elevations, yielding far warmer temperatures. Residents may see a glow from the fires late into the night, resulting from the active burning in this warm air.

CLOUDREST

A Type 1 hotshot crew will continue to improve the containment line on the north end in the South Willow Creek drainage. By utilizing the natural features of the rocky terrain, firefighters will continue constructing fire line connecting these features to prevent spread down valley towards homes and the community of Pony, MT. Fire crews will scout and identify new primary and secondary control lines in the Indian Creek drainage, where the fire made some headway yesterday.

BIVENS CREEK

The Bivens Creek fire remains the highest priority due to its proximity to residences in South Meadow Creek and areas south of the fire. Firefighters made good progress on the hand line on the west side of the fire and will continue to work north into Ramshorn Creek to help protect inholdings to the west. There is active fire growth in the Ramshorn area that aerial resources will continue to address. The bulldozers were not able to reinforce the retardant lines on the east side of the fire due to fire activity, and fire managers think they will have a good opportunity today with the shift in wind directions. A structure protection group will move into the South Meadow Creek area to begin assessing homes.

CLOSURES

For the safety of the public and firefighters, an area closure on Forest Service lands has been put into effect in the area. Please respect these closures and do not travel beyond the barriers.

Reminder: There is a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) in place over the fire area. The TFR is in place to provide a safe environment for firefighting aircraft operations. Using drones and flying private aircraft in the fire area can halt air operations and suppression efforts, jeopardizing the safety of all firefighting resources.

