



Elder 1 Fire

Lolo National Forest

Fire Information: 406-468-1909

<https://www.facebook.com/lolonationalforest>

<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/>

July 27, 2025

Incident Commander: Teo DiGiando (Type 3 IC)

Location: 7 miles southwest of Frenchtown, MT in Rock Creek

Start Date: 07/24/2026

Cause: Lightning

Size: Estimated 318 acres

Resources Assigned: 3 crews; 3 engines, 2 dozers, 2 helicopters

CURRENT STATUS / PLANNED ACTIONS

The Elder 1 Fire is currently mapped at 318 acres, after significant growth on July 25th. Modest growth was observed yesterday, but it was greatly diminished compared to the previous shift. A mapping flight scheduled for this afternoon will provide a more precise updated perimeter.

Firefighters are working today near the end of Rock Creek Road to construct direct handline and install hose lays. On the eastern perimeter, crews are focused on cutting handline and sawline around spot fires located at the head of the fire. On the northern flank, a dozer continues constructing indirect line along the ridge, while another dozer works to widen and improve the local access road near Rock Creek to serve as holding features. On the southern edge just north of Wildhorse Point, firefighters are cutting access to the fireline and looking for areas to construct direct handline along the southern flank.

WEATHER, FUELS, AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

The fire remained active yesterday, though intensity diminished compared to previous operational periods. Morning smoke created inversion conditions that temporarily limited visibility and restricted aviation operations. Once the inversion lifted in the afternoon, air support resumed with helicopters and an aerial supervision aircraft assisting ground resources.

Today's forecast calls for light winds of 2 to 4 mph, though afternoon gusts could reach up to 20 mph, potentially increasing fire activity and visible smoke.

CLOSURES: For your safety and that of firefighting resources, Forest fire officials are encouraging the public to stay out of the immediate area and avoid unnecessary travel down Deep Creek Road. Agency officials are discussing the implementation of a temporary area closure for the fire area.

A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) has been implemented over the fire area. This allows for firefighting aircraft to safely work over the fire area. Firefighting aircraft and drones are a dangerous combination. Drones in the area could lead to accidents or slow down wildfire suppression operations. If you fly...we can't.

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