



# Bobcat Lakes/ Sand Creek Fires

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest / Fire Information: 406-420-1966



<https://www.facebook.com/Beaverhead-Deerlodge-NF-Wildland-Fire-Information>  
<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mtbdf-bobcat-lakes>  
<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mtbdf-sand-creek>

Friday, August 28, 2026

**Incident Commander:** Brent Olson, Northern Rockies Complex Incident Management Team 1

| Fire Name    | Acreage (estimated) | Containment | Location                                        |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Bobcat Lakes | 10,524              | 40%         | 13 miles SW of Wise River, 12 miles E of Wisdom |
| Sand Creek   | 33,918              | 11%         | 7.5 miles SE of Wisdom                          |

**Total Personnel:** 660 **Engines:** 26 **Crews:** 13 **Heavy Equipment:** 4 Dozers, 1 Masticator, 15 Skidgens

**Cause:** Undetermined **Start:** July 31 and Aug 1

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Crews have scouted the area, developed a construction plan, and ordered equipment to build a shaded fuel break along the Scenic Byway between the Bobcat Lakes and Sand Creek Fires. This will serve as a control line, giving firefighters a place to hold the fire should it move east. Building a shaded fuel break involves thinning trees and vegetation while leaving some trees standing along the line, creating a break that crews can use to slow and check an advancing fire. This is a method commonly used for indirect suppression in forested terrain.

## CURRENT STATUS / ACTIONS:

**Skull, Skull 2 and Boot Fires:** Three new lightning-caused fires were detected yesterday afternoon near the Sand Creek Fire. Team 1 will manage these fires because they fall within the team's initial attack response area. The Skull Fire (estimated 43 acres) and Skull 2 Fire (estimated 0.1 acre) are located 1.5 miles from the northern tip of the Sand Creek Fire, east of Odell Lake. The Boot Fire (estimated 0.1 acre) is located 8 miles northeast of Polaris, MT. Helicopter water bucket drops were conducted on the Boot Fire late yesterday afternoon.

**Sand Creek Fire:** Firefighters have been scouting indirect and direct suppression opportunities along the west side of the fire, from Jackson Creek north to Steel Creek Road. Crews will begin preparing the Steel-Fox road as a fire control line, with a combination of direct and indirect lines planned along the entire west side of the fire. The western fire edge is irregular, with areas of heat and pockets of thick, dead and downed timber that limit safe access. Indirect line construction continues from Clemow Cow Camp east to the Old Tim Creek area. Crews attempted a strategic burnout north of this line yesterday, but gusty winds paused the operation; ignition work in this large, unburned area will resume today as weather allows. Bringing the fire edge out to these established lines and securing them will help protect private property to the south and west of the fire area.

Along the south and southeast sides of the fire, from Old Tim Creek east to Dingley Creek, crews continue to patrol, mop up, and secure containment lines, cooling remaining hot spots to strengthen the line and protect private property and other values in Grasshopper Valley. In the Price Creek area, firefighters are constructing direct line and addressing additional hot spots as they're found. Crews will continue working to connect fire lines from Price Creek to the ridge north of Comet Mountain.

**Bobcat Lakes Fire:** Firefighters used hand ignition and unmanned aerial systems (UAS) to continue firing operations in small areas above Lacy Creek Road and east of Jerked Prairie. This work is being done to secure the south side of the fire and protect private property. A small pocket of fire remains moderately active and is slowly backing downslope towards Pattengill Creek on the north side of the fire. Along the Byway crews continued to patrol and mop up where needed to keep the line secure.

Aircraft are available to support firefighters with water/retardant drops, reconnaissance flights & personnel transport.



## **WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR:**

Increased cloud cover and potential precipitation will help to moderate humidity levels, with afternoon minimum relative humidity levels at 24-28%. South winds will shift southwesterly with gusts up to 24-28 mph on exposed ridges. Temperatures will range from 69 to 74 degrees. Fire activity will be moderated by cloud cover and humidity levels, but gusty winds may push the fire in exposed areas.

## **CLOSURES AND RESTRICTIONS:**

**The Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway remains closed.** The Dingley Zone in the Grasshopper Valley is in GO evacuation status. Check the [Beaverhead Co. Sheriff's Facebook](#) page for updates to evacuations.

A closure is in effect for National Forest System (NFS) area, roads, and trails in parts of the Wisdom and Dillon Ranger Districts, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Please see the [Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF website](#) and [InciWeb](#) for the description/map for Closure Order #01020326-04.

A temporary flight restriction (TFR) is in place over the fire areas. Beaverhead County is in [Stage 1 Fire Restrictions](#). Visit [MTFireInfo.org](#) for updated fire restriction information.

