



STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
MONTANA DIVISION OF FORESTRY
2705 Spurgin Road
Missoula, Montana 59804

Montana Wildfire Situation Report
Monday, July 22, 2024

Preparedness Level	Northern Rockies: 4	National: 5
---------------------------	---------------------	-------------

A dry, cold front is predicted to arrive on Thursday, which will bring closer-to-normal temperatures for the western half of the state. Until then, the very hot and dry conditions will continue, potentially bringing record-breaking heat. The western half of the state is forecast to receive widespread lightning during the first half of the week and windy conditions are predicted through Friday.

The Northern Rockies Geographic Area received 174 fires last week (Sunday 7/14 – Saturday 7/20) for 7,979 acres burned. During the same period, Montana received 138 fires for 6,363 acres. To date, there have been 913 fires in the state for a total of 89,563 acres burned.

DNRC Fire Situation

Eastern Land Office: The Land Office reported 27 new starts, but all have remained small. The Deadman Fire is currently winding down.

Southern Land Office: Within the land office there were 21 federal fires and 26 local government fires last week, with all currently in mop up status or out.

Northeastern Land Office: Fire activity is slowly picking up across the land office, which conducted light to moderate initial attack activity last week for a total of a couple hundred acres burned. Most fires were equipment-caused.

Central Land Office: The land office responded to 6-8 new starts last week, with the biggest reaching 21 acres. The Horse Gulch Fire is moving to a Type 3 team this week.

Northwestern Land Office: The land office had 6 new fires last week on DNRC protection, 5 of which were human caused. Fire danger is now on the low end of extreme.

Southwestern Land Office: The land office responded to 12 new fires last week, all of which were human caused. The Butler Fire started last night and is currently reported at 200 acres.

Other Large Fire Incidents in Montana

Miller Peak, Lolo NF, USFS. CIMT (NR Team 5). 2,481 acres, 10% contained. Burning seven miles southeast of Missoula, MT in timber. Moderate fire behavior with flanking, torching, and backing. Numerous structures and energy infrastructure threatened. Area, road, and trail closures in effect.

McGhee, Rosebud County. CIMT (NR Team 3). 19,223 acres, 52% contained. CIMT is also managing the Deadman incident. Started on private land 26 miles southwest of Ashland, MT. Burning in grass and timber. Moderate fire behavior with backing, isolating torching, and smoldering. Structures and sage-grouse habitat threatened.

Deadman, Rosebud County. Started on private land 32 miles southwest of Ashland, MT. Burning in timber. Moderate fire behavior with backing, isolated torching, and smoldering. Structures and sage-grouse habitat threatened.

Horse Gulch, Helena-Lewis and Clark NF, USFS. CIMT (NR Team 2). Burning seventeen miles northeast of Helena, MT in timber and brush. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Area, road, and trail closures in effect.

DNRC Fire Information

Forestry Division	Anna Lau	406-499-3616
Fire Protection Bureau	Julia Berkey	406-361-5947

Statewide Duty Officers

ELO	Randy Sanders	406-489-1418
SLO	Mike Boettcher	406-210-8137
NELO	Icky Woods	406-544-5649
CLO	Bob Culbreth	406-465-6753
NWLO	Kevin DeVine	406-212-5839
SWLO	Karl Nikoleyczik	406-240-4973
FPB	Heath Gerber	406-366-5738
GIS	Christian Hinderman	Call FPB DO
Information	Julia Berkey/Moira Davin	406-361-5947/406-437-4562

Links to Other Information

Montana Fires on InciWeb	http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/state/30/
Montana fires, restrictions, and preparedness	https://www.mtfireinfo.org/
Wildfire Smoke Update	https://gis.mtdeq.us/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=000f42b119c44c7f9c3b4336470c721e
Fire Weather Watches/Warnings	http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/predictive/weather/weather.htm
Current Fire Restrictions in Montana	https://www.mtfireinfo.org/pages/restrictions
Montana Weather	http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/predictive/weather/weather.htm
Northern Rockies 7 Day Fire Potential	https://fsapps.nwcg.gov/psp/npsg/forecast/#/outlooks?state=forecast&gacclid=5
National Fire News	http://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/nfn.htm
National Situation Report	http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf