



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

Montana Wildfire Situation Report
Monday, September 12, 2022

Preparedness Level	Northern Rockies: 3	National: 4
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The Northern Rockies Geographic Area had 102 new fires last week that burned 8,969 acres. Resources remain scarce compared to earlier this summer, with no crews currently available. The crews that have been assigned to the Area, however, are being moved around as needed.

Most of Montana will begin the week at high to very high fire danger, with heavy smoke continuing to affect much of the state. Temperatures and relative humidity will moderate throughout the week. Widespread showers across most of western Montana are possible for Thursday.

DNRC Fire Situation

Eastern Land Office: Fire activity was light across the land office last week, with counties responding to three new starts. The Northern Cheyenne Reservation is in Stage 1 fire restrictions.

Southern Land Office: County firefighters responded to 36 new fires this past week. Musselshell, Treasure, Yellowstone, and Big Horn Counties remain in Stage 1 fire restrictions

Northeastern Land Office: There were three fires across the land office last week, the largest of which was the Eagle Creek Fire, which has burned 7,225 acres and is 40% contained. Wheatland and Philips Counties, along with Rocky Boy Reservation, remain in Stage 1 fire restrictions.

Central Land Office: There was one fire that received county response with DNRC assistance last week. Cascade, Liberty, and Toole Counties are in Stage 1 restrictions.

Northwestern Land Office: There were five fires under DNRC direct protection last week, four of which were human-caused. ERCs remain in the 90th-97th percentile, and Sanders and Lake Counties are in Stage 1 restrictions.

Southwestern Land Office: DNRC firefighters responded to four fires last week, the largest of which was the Arrastra Fire north of Helmville. The CAT team is scheduled to demobilize from the Marray Fire on Thursday. Ravalli County remains in Stage 2 restrictions.

Other Large Fire Incidents in Montana

Lemonade, Flathead NF, USFS. IMT 2 (NR Team 3). Burning twenty-one miles west of Kalispell, MT, in closed timber litter, timber, and light slash. Moderate fire behavior with creeping, single tree, and isolated torching. 667 acres and 45% contained.

Bull Gin Complex (4 fires), Kootenai NF, USFS. IMT 2 (NR Team 7). Burning two miles northeast of Heron, MT in timber and brush. Active fire behavior with flanking, backing and group torching. Residences threatened and area, road, and trail closures in effect. 2,696 acres and 0% contained.

Eagle Creek, Hill County. Burning thirty miles south of Havre, MT, in timber, brush, and short grass. Active fire behavior with uphill runs, group torching, and flanking. Residences threatened and road closures in effect. 7,225 acres and 40% contained.

Blodgett Lake, Bitterroot NF, USFS. Burning eleven miles west of Hamilton, MT, in timber, closed timber litter, and brush. Extreme fire behavior with crowning, uphill runs, and spotting. Road and trail closures in effect. 1,200 acres and 0% contained. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

Trail Ridge, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, USFS. Previously reported incident burning twenty-three miles northwest of Wisdom, MT. Heavy slash, brush, and timber. Moderate fire behavior with flanking. Area, road, and trail closures in effect. 13,790 acres and 14% contained. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

DNRC Fire Information

Fire Protection Bureau	Julia Berkey	406-361-5947
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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	http://svc.mt.gov/deq/todaysair/smokereport/mostrecentupdate.aspx
Fire Weather Watches/Warnings	http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/predictive/weather/weather.htm
Current Fire Restrictions in Montana	Sanders, Lake, Cascade, Phillips, Wheatland, Yellowstone, Musselshell, Treasure, and Bighorn Counties, as well as the Rocky Boy and Northern Cheyenne Reservations, are in Stage 1 Fire Restrictions. Ravalli County is in Stage 2 Fire Restrictions. Several counties also have local burn bans in place. https://www.mtfireinfo.org/pages/restrictions
Montana Weather	http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/predictive/weather/weather.htm
Northern Rockies 7 Day Fire Potential	http://psgeodata.fs.fed.us/forecast/#/outlooks?state=sideBySide&gacclid=5
National Fire News	http://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/nfn.htm
National Situation Report	http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf