



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 19, 2021		
Preparedness Level	Northern Rockies: 5	National: 5
<p>In the last week, initial attack has been moderate. There continues to be intense competition for resources, specifically for crews, aircraft, and incident management teams. Across the Northern Rockies Geographic Area, yesterday we had 3 new large wildfires and 31 uncontained large fires. Three (3) Type 1 Incident Management Teams and eight (8) Type 2 IMTs are on assignment in the geographic area. Year-to-date 1,501 fires have burned approximately 174,236 acres in Montana. Year-to-date 3,196 fires have burned approximately 385,586 acres in the geographic area.</p>		
<p>A Red Flag Warning is covering much of Montana today. Isolated to scattered dry thunderstorms will become more widespread today (Monday) and Tuesday, eventually pushing north into the Idaho Panhandle and northwest Montana tonight and Tuesday with much drier storms. Hot, dry, and unstable weather will peak today especially east of the Divide with near-record temperatures and relative humidity in the single digits and teens. Additionally, strong southeast winds 15 to 25 mph will be gusty in eastern Montana. Smoke will continue to be dense in western Montana. For additional information on air quality, please check DEQ's Today's Air website.</p>		
DNRC Fire Situation		
<p>Eastern Land Office: In the past week there have been 20+ new fires. The lightning-caused Wolf Coulee Fire in Richland County is largest at nearly 1,000 acres fueled by wind-driven runs. A Red Flag Warning is in effect today, with the potential for lightning. Hot and dry conditions persist. Several counties are in Stage 1 Fire Restrictions.</p>		
<p>Southern Land Office: In the past week there have been several new fire starts every day with reignitions occurring. The County Assist Team is assigned to the Buffalo Fire and Harris Fire. A Red Flag Warning is in effect today with the potential for lightning today and tomorrow. Hot, dry, and windy conditions persist. Several counties are in Stage 1 and 2 Fire Restrictions.</p>		
<p>Northeastern Land Office: In the past week there have been over 21 new fire starts. A Red Flag Warning is in effect today with the potential for lightning today and tomorrow. Hot, dry, and windy conditions persist. Several counties are in Stage 1 and 2 Fire Restrictions.</p>		
<p>Central Land Office: In the past week there have been multiple new fire starts. The Central Land Office is working with the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest on several fires, including the Alder Creek Fire near Wise River, the Trail Creek Fire near Wisdom, the Armstead Fire near Dillon, the Black Mountain Fire near Dillon, and the Goose Fire near Ennis. The CLO is also working with the Helena Lewis and Clark National Forest on the Divide Complex. A Red Flag Warning is in effect today with the potential for lightning and gusty outflow winds. Several counties are in Stage 1 and 2 Fire Restrictions.</p>		
<p>Northwestern Land Office: In the past week there have been 4 new fire starts on DNRC direct protection, including the Henry Creek Fire near Plains, which is now in patrol status. The Northwestern Land Office is working with the U.S. Forest Service on several fires, including the West Lolo Complex (Lolo National Forest) and the Burnt Peak, South Yaak, and Ruby Fires (Kootenai National Forest). A</p>		

Red Flag Warning is in effect today with the potential for lightning and gusty winds this week. Several counties are in [Stage 1 and 2 Fire Restrictions](#).

Southwestern Land Office: In the past week there have been 11 new fires (2 human-caused) on DNRC direct protection, including the [Anderson Hill Fire](#). The Southwestern Land Office has been working closely with the Lolo National Forest on several fires including the West Lolo Complex and the Granite Pass Complex. A Red Flag Warning is in effect today with the potential for lightning. The Southwest Zone Prevention Team is active. Several counties are in [Stage 2 Fire Restrictions](#).

Other Large Fire Incidents in Montana

[Alder Creek Fire](#), Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, USFS. IMT 1 (SA Blue Team – IC: Morales). IMT is also managing the Trail Creek incident. Twenty miles northwest of Wisdom, MT. Burning in timber and medium slash. Active fire behavior with short crown runs, spotting and uphill runs. Numerous structures threatened. Evacuations, area, road and trail closures in effect. Reduction in acreage due to more accurate mapping. 5,670 acres.

[Trail Creek Fire](#), Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, USFS. IMT 1 (SA Blue Team – IC: Morales) Twenty miles west of Wisdom, MT. Active fire behavior with uphill runs, group torching and spotting. Structures threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect. 23,090 acres.

[Goose Fire](#), Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, USFS. IMT 2 (NR Team 5). Thirty-two miles southeast of Ennis, MT. Burning in timber and brush. Moderate fire behavior with uphill runs, group torching and spotting. Structures and sage grouse habitat threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect. 6,258 acres and 21% contained.

[Anderson Hill Fire](#), Southwestern Land Office, DNRC. Thirty miles southeast of Missoula, MT. IMT 3 (NV Team – IC: Newell) Burning in timber and medium slash. Active fire behavior with group torching, backing and spotting. Structures threatened. Evacuations, area and road closures in effect. 647 acres and 3% contained.

[Granite Pass Complex](#) (3 Fires), Lolo NF, USFS. IMT 2 (CA Team 15 – IC: Harris). Thirty miles southwest of Missoula, MT. Burning timber, brush and medium slash. Moderate fire behavior with flanking, backing and single tree torching. Structures threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect. 1,702 acres.

[West Lolo Complex](#) (2 Fires), Lolo NF, USFS. IMT 1 (NR Team 1 – IC: Goicoechea). Six miles north of St. Regis, MT. Burning in trush, closed timber litter and timber. Moderate fire behavior with flanking, single tree torching and spotting. Area, road and trail closures in effect. 2,055 acres and 8% contained.

[Divide Complex](#) (2 Fires), Helena-Lewis and Clark NF, USFS. Seventeen miles west of Neihart, MT. Burning in timber and light slash. Active fire behavior with group torching, short-range spotting and flanking. Evacuations, area, road and trail closures in effect. 1,688 acres and 15% contained.

[Burnt Peak Fire](#), Kootenai NF, USFS. IMT 2 (GB Team 4 – IC: Roide). Nine miles southwest of Troy, MT. Burning in timber and light slash. Active fire behavior with flanking, backing and spotting. Structures threatened. Area and road closures in effect. 1,977 acres and 13% contained.

[Robertson Draw Fire](#), Custer Gallatin NF, USFS. Seven miles south of Red Lodge, MT. Burning in short grass, brush and timber. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering and creeping. Area, road and trail closures in effect. 29,841 acres and 85% contained.

Wolf Coulee Fire, Richland County. Twelve miles southwest of Culbertson, MT. Burning in timber and chaparral. Active fire behavior with running and wind-driven runs.

Outlaw Fire, Beaverhead County. Started on private land 18 miles southeast of Hysham, MT. Burning in short grass, brush and timber. Extreme fire behavior with spotting, group torching and uphill runs. Structures threatened.

[Harris Fire](#), Carbon County. Five miles south of Park City, MT. (County Assist Team) Burning in timber and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with single tree torching and smoldering. Numerous structures threatened. Road closures in effect. Reduction in acreage due to more accurate mapping. 2,624 acres and 45% contained.

[Buffalo Fire](#), Yellowstone County. Seven miles east of Billings, MT. (County Assist Team) Burning in short grass, timber and brush. Minimal fire behavior with single tree torching and smoldering. Structures threatened. 288 acres and 75% contained.

[Crooked Creek Fire](#), Billings Field Office, BLM. Twenty-five miles east of Bridger, MT. Burning in timber. Minimal fire behavior with isolated torching. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

South Tullock Creek Fire, Crow Agency, BIA. Twenty-two miles southeast of Hardin, MT. Burning in short grass and brush. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering and creeping.

[American Fork Fire](#), Helena-Lewis and Clark NF, USFS. Twenty-four miles southwest of Harlowton, MT. Extreme fire behavior with group torching, spotting and running. 700 acres.

DNRC Fire Information

Fire Protection Bureau	Kristin Sleeper	406-210-8122 (cell)
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Links to Other Information

Montana Fires on InciWeb	http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/state/30/
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	Several counties are in Stage 1 and Stage 2 Fire Restrictions. Please visit https://www.mtfireinfo.org/ for more detailed information.
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&gaccId=5
National Fire News	http://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/nfn.htm
National Situation Report	http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf