



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

Montana Wildfire Situation Report Monday, August 23, 2021		
Preparedness Level	Northern Rockies: 4	National: 5
<p>Last week, initial attack was light– Northern Rockies moved to Preparedness Level 4 yesterday. However, there continues to be intense competition for resources, especially crews and engines. Across the Geographic Area, yesterday there were 29 uncontained large fires. Year-to-date in Montana 2,082 fires have burned 825,975 acres as of this morning at 0800.</p> <p>Cooler temperatures expected across western Montana, with eastern Montana warming up ahead of a dry cold front today. This week we can expect near or below average temperatures with isolated chances for precipitation. For additional information on air quality and wildfire smoke, please check <a href="#">DEQ's Today's Air website</a>.</p>		
DNRC Fire Situation		
<p><b>Eastern Land Office:</b> In the past week there have been 8 new fire starts. The largest was the Snider Fire which is ~150 acres. The <a href="#">Richard Spring Fire</a>, which burned 171,130 acres, was turned back to the local unit this weekend and is considered 100% contained. Temperatures will be in the 80's this week with a chance of storms at the end of the week. Several counties are in <a href="#">Stage 1 Fire Restrictions</a>.</p> <p><b>Southern Land Office:</b> In the past week initial attack has been light due to recent rain. Conditions will warm up and dry back out by the end of the week. Several counties are in <a href="#">Stage 1 and 2 Fire Restrictions</a>.</p> <p><b>Northeastern Land Office:</b> In the past week initial attack has been light. The <a href="#">Pine Grove Fire</a> on Fort Belknap Agency is 16,004 acres and 58% contained. Cooler temperatures expected this week. Several counties are in <a href="#">Stage 1 and 2 Fire Restrictions</a>.</p> <p><b>Central Land Office:</b> In the past week initial attack was light with 7 new fires. The <a href="#">Harris Mountain Fire</a> (Cascade County) is 31,603 acres and 74% contained. The CLO is working with the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest on several fires, including the <a href="#">Alder Creek</a> and <a href="#">Christensen</a> Fires near Wise River, the <a href="#">Trail Creek Fire</a> near Wisdom, and the <a href="#">Black Mountain</a> Fire near Dillon. The CLO is also working with the Helena Lewis and Clark National Forest on <a href="#">Woods Creek</a>, <a href="#">Divide Complex</a> and <a href="#">American Fork</a> Fires. Several counties are in <a href="#">Stage 1 and 2 Fire Restrictions</a>.</p> <p><b>Northwestern Land Office:</b> In the past week there was 1 new start. NWLO is wrapping up on the Whitetail Creek (95% contained) and Twin (75% contained) Fires. NWLO is working with the U.S. Forest Service on several fires, including the <a href="#">West Lolo Complex</a> (Lolo National Forest) and the <a href="#">Burnt Peak</a> and <a href="#">South Yaak</a> (Kootenai National Forest), and the <a href="#">Hay Creek Fire</a> (Flathead National Forest). Temperatures will be in the 70's this week with chances for additional precipitation. All counties are in <a href="#">Stage 2 Fire Restrictions</a>.</p> <p><b>Southwestern Land Office:</b> In the past week initial attack was very light. The <a href="#">Mannix Park Fire</a> is 35 acres and 30% contained. The Southwestern Land Office has been working closely with the Lolo National Forest on several fires including the <a href="#">West Lolo Complex</a> and the <a href="#">Granite Pass Complex</a>. A</p>		

cooling trend and the potential for rain is expected this week. All counties are in [Stage 2 Fire Restrictions](#).

### Other Large Fire Incidents in Montana

[Woods Creek Fire](#), Helena-Lewis and Clark NF, USFS. Transfer of command from IMT 1 (RM Team 1) back to the local unit will occur tomorrow. IMT is also managing the Divide Complex and American Fork incident. Sixteen miles northeast of Townsend, MT. Burning in short grass, timber and brush. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Residences threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday. 55,882 acres and 54% contained.

[Divide Complex](#) (Balsinger Fire), Helena-Lewis and Clark NF, USFS. Seventeen miles west of Neihart, MT. Burning in short grass, timber and brush. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Area, road and trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday. 8,584 acres and 77% contained.

[American Fork](#), Helena-Lewis and Clark NF, USFS. Twenty-four miles southwest of Harlowton, MT. Burning in short grass, timber and brush. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Residences threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday. 21,876 acres and 58% contained.

[Pine Grove](#), Fort Belknap Agency, BIA. Three miles northeast of Hays, MT. Burning in timber and short grass. Minimal fire behavior. Several communities, structures and sage-grouse habitat threatened. Road closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday. 16,004 acres and 58% contained.

[Alder Creek](#), Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, USFS. IMT 2 (NR Team 5). IMT is also managing the Trail Creek, Christensen and Black Mountain incidents. Twenty miles northwest of Wisdom, MT. Burning in timber and brush. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Area, road and trail closures in effect. 14,066 acres and 15% contained.

[Trail Creek](#), Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, USFS. Twenty miles west of Wisdom, MT. Burning in timber and brush. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Community of Gibbonsville threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect. 39,243 acres and 26% contained.

[Christensen](#), Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, USFS. Ten miles northeast of Wisdom, MT. Burning in timber and brush. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering and creeping. Area, road and trail closures in effect. 11,089 acres and 15% contained.

[Black Mountain](#), Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, USFS. Twenty miles east of Salmon, ID. Burning in timber, heavy slash and brush. Minimal fire behavior. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday. 1,041 acres and 90% contained.

[Granite Pass Complex](#) (3 fires), Lolo NF, USFS. Thirty miles southwest of Missoula, MT. Burning in timber, closed timber litter and brush. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Community of Lolo Hot Springs, structures and communication infrastructure threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday. 5,910 acres and 15% contained.

[West Lolo Complex](#), Lolo NF, USFS. IMT 2 (SA Gold Team, IC: Beard). Six miles north of St. Regis, MT. Burning in timber, closed timber litter and brush. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Community of Thompson. Evacuations, area, road and trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday. 39,053 acres and 80% contained.

[Burnt Peak](#), Kootenai NF, USFS. IMT 2 (GB Team 5). IMT is also managing the South Yaak incident. Nine miles southwest of Troy, MT. Burning in timber. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering and creeping. Area, road and trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday. 4,066 acres and 29% contained.

[South Yaak](#), Kootenai NF, USFS. Four miles northwest of Troy, MT. Burning in timber and light slash. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering and creeping. Area, road and trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday. 12,522 acres and 62% contained.

[Harris Mountain](#), Cascade County. Seven miles southeast of Cascade, MT. Burning in closed timber litter and timber. Minimal fire behavior. Structures threatened. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday. 31,603 acres and 74% contained.

[Boulder 2700](#), Flathead Agency, BIA. Three miles northeast of Finley Point, MT. Burning in closed timber litter and timber. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Numerous residences and infrastructure threatened. Area and trail closures in effect. 2,230 acres and 46% contained.

[Whitetail Creek](#), Northwestern Land Office, DNRC. Nine miles northeast of Finley Point, MT. Burning in medium slash and timber. Minimal fire behavior.

Twin, Northwestern Land Office, DNRC. Started on private land thirty-three miles north of Plains, MT. Burning in timber and medium slash.

#### DNRC Fire Information

<b>Fire Protection Bureau</b>	Kristin Sleeper	406-210-8122 (cell)
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#### Links to Other Information

<b>Montana Fires on InciWeb</b>	<a href="http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/state/30/">http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/state/30/</a>
<b>Wildfire Smoke Update</b>	<a href="https://svc.mt.gov/deq/todaysair/">https://svc.mt.gov/deq/todaysair/</a>
<b>Fire Weather Watches/Warnings</b>	<a href="http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/predictive/weather/weather.htm">http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/predictive/weather/weather.htm</a>
<b>Current Fire Restrictions in Montana</b>	Several counties are in Stage 1 and Stage 2 Fire Restrictions. Please visit <a href="https://www.mtfireinfo.org/">https://www.mtfireinfo.org/</a> for more detailed information.
<b>Montana Weather</b>	<a href="http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/predictive/weather/weather.htm">http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/predictive/weather/weather.htm</a>
<b>Northern Rockies 7 Day Fire Potential</b>	<a href="http://psgeodata.fs.fed.us/forecast/#/outlooks?state=sideBySide&amp;gacclid=5">http://psgeodata.fs.fed.us/forecast/#/outlooks?state=sideBySide&amp;gacclid=5</a>
<b>National Fire News</b>	<a href="http://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/nfn.htm">http://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/nfn.htm</a>
<b>National Situation Report</b>	<a href="http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf">http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf</a>