



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 26, 2021		
Preparedness Level	Northern Rockies: 5	National: 5
<p>In the last week, initial attack has been moderate to heavy. There continues to be intense competition for resources, specifically for crews and overhead. Two (2) National Guard Helicopters are assisting with initial and extended attack in Helena (CH-47 Chinook) and Billings (UH-60 Blackhawk). Additional resources were secured through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) – Utah sent two task forces (7 engines, 25 personnel) and California sent one strike team (5 engines, 20 personnel). Across the Northern Rockies Geographic Area, yesterday there were 31 uncontained large fires. One (1) Type 1 Incident Management Teams and ten (10) Type 2 IMTs are on assignment in the geographic area.</p>		
<p>Excessive heat watches and warnings are in place for Central and Eastern Montana today and tomorrow. Hot and dry conditions persist with a chance for isolated thunderstorms and abundant lightning toward the end of the week. Smoke will continue to be dense in several areas across the state. 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 several new fires. The County Assist Team is assigned to and closing out on the Slough Grass Fire in Rosebud and Big Horn counties (9,170 acres and 100% contained). The Rough Fire is burning near the Slough Grass fire and is ~600 acres with additional resources responding today. The Devil's Creek Fire in Garfield County is ~9,000 acres – all firefighters involved in the burn over incident are in stable condition and the investigation is underway. Hot and dry conditions persist with a chance of thunderstorms later this week. Several counties are in Stage 1 Fire Restrictions.</p>		
<p>Southern Land Office: In the past week there have been several new fires, all caught with local resources. The SLO is supporting the Robertson Draw Fire and American Fork Fire with additional resources. Hot and dry conditions persist with the potential for lightning this week. Several counties are in Stage 1 and 2 Fire Restrictions.</p>		
<p>Northeastern Land Office: In the past week initial has been light with 12+ fires reported. Hot and dry conditions persist with the potential for lightning. 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. Northern Rockies Type 2 IMT (IC: Thompson) assumed command of the Harris Mountain Fire this morning. The CLO is working with the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest on several fires, including the Alder Creek and Christensen Fires near Wise River, the Trail Creek Fire near Wisdom, 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 and American Fork Fires. Hot and dry conditions expected to continue. Several counties are in Stage 1 and 2 Fire Restrictions.</p>		

Northwestern Land Office: In the past week there have been 6 new fire starts on DNRC direct protection and all are now in patrol status. NWLO 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, and the [Hay Creek Fire](#) (Flathead National Forest). Hot temperatures are expected to continue with a chance for lightning. Several counties are in [Stage 1 and 2 Fire Restrictions](#).

Southwestern Land Office: In the past week there have been 11 new fires (3human-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](#). Warm temperatures and the potential for thunderstorms expected this week. Several counties are in [Stage 2 Fire Restrictions](#).

Other Large Fire Incidents in Montana

[Divide Complex](#) (2 fires), Helena-Lewis and Clark NF, USFS. IMT 2 (SA Gold Team - Beard). IMT is also managing the American Fork incident. Seventeen miles west of Neihart, MT. Burning in timber and light slash. Active fire behavior with single tree torching and group torching. Evacuations, area, road and trail closures in effect. (Balsinger Fire – 5,203 acres; Ellis Fire – 1,277 acres, 70% contained).

[American Fork](#), Helena-Lewis and Clark NF, USFS. Twenty-four miles southwest of Harlowton, MT. Burning in timber. Active fire behavior with isolated torching, flanking and backing. Area, road and trail closures in effect. 5,886 acres and 10% contained.

[Burnt Peak](#), Kootenai NF, USFS. IMT 2 (GB Team 4 – IC: Roide). IMT is also managing the South Yaak incident. Nine miles southwest of Troy, MT. Burning in timber and light slash. Active fire behavior with flanking, uphill runs and spotting. Structures threatened. Area and road closures in effect. 2,715 acres and 19% contained.

[South Yaak](#), Kootenai NF, USFS. Four miles northwest of Troy, MT. Burning in timber and light slash. Active fire behavior with uphill runs, backing and spotting. Structures threatened. Evacuations and road closures in effect. 1,523 acres and 10% contained.

[Alder Creek](#), Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, USFS. Transfer of command from IMT 1 (SA Blue Team) to IMT 1 (SW Team 1 – IC: Morales) occurred yesterday. IMT is also managing the Trail Creek and Christensen incidents. Twenty miles northwest of Wisdom, MT. Burning in timber and medium slash. Active fire behavior with spotting, short crown runs and group torching. Numerous structures threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect. 7,281 acres and 10% contained.

[Trail Creek](#), Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, USFS. Twenty miles west of Wisdom, MT. Burning in timber and medium slash. Active fire behavior with uphill runs, short crown runs and group torching. Structures threatened. Area and trail closures in effect. 27,797 acres.

[Christensen](#), Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, USFS. Ten miles northeast of Wisdom, MT. Burning in timber. Active fire behavior with short crown runs, group torching and long-range spotting. 1,274 acres.

[Black Mountain](#), Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, USFS. Twenty miles east of Salmon, ID. Burning in timber, heavy slash and brush. Moderate fire behavior with single tree torching, smoldering and creeping. Residences threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect. 968 acres.

[Granite Pass Complex](#) (3 fires), Lolo NF, USFS. IMT 2 (CA Team 15 – IC: Harris). Thirty miles southwest of Missoula, MT. Burning in timber, brush and medium slash. Moderate fire behavior with flanking, isolated torching and short-range spotting. Structures threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect. 3,017 acres and 1% contained.

[Harris Mountain](#), Cascade County. IMT 2 (NR Team 7 – IC: Thompson). Started on state land six miles southeast of Cascade, MT. Burning in timber and short grass. Extreme fire behavior with uphill runs,

crowning and short-range spotting. Structures threatened. Road closures in effect. 11,890 acres and 0% contained.

[Goose](#), Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, USFS. Transfer of command from IMT 2 (NR Team 5) back to the local unit will occur today. Thirty-two miles southeast of Ennis, MT. Burning in timber and brush. Moderate fire behavior with isolated torching, flanking and backing. Structures and sage-grouse habitat threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect. 7,471 acres and 78% contained.

Devils Creek, Miles City Field Office, BLM. Burning in timber, brush, short grass. Extreme fire behavior with torching, crowning, spotting and running. Structures and communication infrastructure threatened.

[Hay Creek](#), Flathead NF, USFS. Four miles west of Polebridge, MT. Burning in timber. Active fire behavior with wind-driven runs, group torching and short-range spotting. Residences threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect. 1,158 acres.

[West Lolo Complex](#) (2 fires), Lolo NF, USFS. Six miles north of St. Regis, MT. Burning in brush, closed timber litter and timber. Active fire behavior with backing, group torching and single tree torching. Numerous residences threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect. 5,627 acres.

[Robertson Draw](#), Custer Gallatin NF, USFS. Seven miles south of Red Lodge, MT. Burning in short grass, brush and timber. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Structures threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect. 29,885 acres and 90% contained.

[Anderson Hill](#), Southwestern Land Office, DNRC. Started on BLM land 30 miles southeast of Missoula, MT. Burning in timber and medium slash. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Area and road closures in effect. 750 acres and 90% contained.

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	https://svc.mt.gov/deq/todaysair/
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