



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 28, 2017

Preparedness Level:	Northern Rockies	5	National	5
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The Northern Rockies Area has 27 active large fires (256,341 acres). 76 crews, 389 engines, and 128 aircraft are assigned to the area totaling 4,784 personnel. In the last 24 hours, the area has had 14 new fires (1 BIA, 2 County/Local Gov, 8 FS, 2 IDL, 1 MT DNRC) totaling 10,731 acres. Currently 3 Type 1 Incident Management Teams (IMT); 6 Type 2 IMT and 1 Area Command Team are committed to this geographic area.

DNRC Fire Situation

Fire Costs: \$43 M is the approximate state fire costs-to-date. MT DNRC is currently involved in cost-share discussions for the Lolo Peak fire. MT DNRC has entered cost share agreements for the Liberty Fire and the Sliderock Fire portion of the Sapphire Complex. A cost share negotiation is also being considered for the Alice Creek Fire.

Eastern Land Office: 10 new fires since 8/25. Most are now contained or nearly contained including Mitchell (1,247 acres) and 1026 (1,856 acres).

Southern Land Office: 11 new fires since 8/25, including the Mendenhall Fire in the West Boulder River corridor of Sweet Grass County. This fire is being managed by the County Assist Team and is currently at 1,275 acres. There is a pre-evacuation notice in effect for residences along the West Boulder Road. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Northeastern Land Office: 1 new fire since 8/25, 10 miles east-southeast of Box Elder (Rocky Boy Agency). Size is 200 acres with 10% containment and a full suppression management strategy.

Central Land Office: No new fires since 8/25. Mauer Mountain (Dillon) and Holmes Gulch (Helena) are 100% contained. Conrow has grown to 2,727 acres (up from 10 on 8/25). Alice Creek is at 5,000 acres (HLF) and is under management of Bird's Type 2 IMT. It has potential to impact Central Land Office protection – see discussion of cost-share above.

Northwestern Land Office: Two human-caused fires since 8/25, both caught. Caribou Fire has crossed the Canadian border and Canadian forces are working their side of the line. The Tamarack Fire remains at 407 acres and is now 98% contained.

Southwestern Land Office: 7 new fires since 8/25, 3 human-caused, 4 lightning.

Other Large Fire Incidents

SW MT Area Command Team (Sexton) is assigned to Southwest Montana Zone to assist in managing the Burdette, Liberty, Lolo Peak, Rice Ridge, Sapphire Complex, and Sunrise fires.

LOLO PEA - Lolo NF. 37,844 acres, 31% contained, 1,001 personnel, started 7/15, cost-to-date \$32M. Full suppression management strategy. Lightning caused, located 10 miles SW of Lolo, MT. Type 1 Incident Management Team (Poncin, IC). Closed timber litter and timber (litter and understory). Active fire behavior with flanking, running and smoldering. Numerous residences threatened. Evacuations, road, trail and area closures in effect. Fire activity increased yesterday with the return of dry air to the fire area. Fire was very active with aggressive surface fire in multiple locations. Single tree torching, some group torching and short uphill runs occurred during mid and late afternoon. For more information visit <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5375/>.

RICE RIDGE - Lolo NF. 27,863 acres, 22% contained, 535 personnel, started 7/24. Monitor, confine, and full suppression management strategy. Lightning caused, located 1.4 miles N of Seeley Lake, MT. Type 2 Incident Management Team (Thompson, IC). Timber (litter and understory). Active fire behavior with group torching, backing and flanking. The town of Seeley Lake, communication site and outlying communities are threatened. Evacuations, road, trail and area closures in effect. As of 8/28, line has been completed along the west flank of the fire. A drone incursion shut down air operations for the evening on 8/27. For more information visit <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5414/>.

LIBERTY - Flathead Agency, BIA. 12,801 acres, 15% containment, 422 personnel, started 7/15, cost-to-date \$12.4M. Confine, monitor and full suppression management strategy. Confine and full suppression management strategy. Lightning caused, located 17 miles SE of Arlee, MT. Type 2 Incident Management Team (Rohrer, IC). Timber (litter, grass and understory) and closed timber. Active fire behavior with group torching, flanking and short range spotting. Cultural and timber resources and endangered species habitat threatened. Trail and area closures in effect. An evacuation warning for Seeley Lake remains in place; however, the evacuation warning for Placid Lake has been lifted. For more information visit <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5437/>.

SUNRISE - Lolo NF. 25,921 acres, 77% contained, 360 personnel, started 7/16. Full suppression, confine and point zone protection management strategy. Lightning caused, located 11 miles SE of Superior, MT. Type 1 Incident Management Team (Lund, IC). IMT also managing the Burdette fire. Timber (litter and understory), closed timber litter, brush (2 feet). Moderate fire behavior with flanking, backing and torching. Numerous residences and other structures threatened. Evacuations, road, trail and area closures in effect. The southwest portion of the fire remains the most active, and a warming and drying trend is expected to continue through Tuesday. For more information visit <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5379/>.

SAPPHIRE COMPLEX - Lolo NF. 39,189 acres, 49% contained, 482 personnel, started 7/24, cost-to-date \$12.2M. Full suppression and point zone protection management strategy. Lightning caused, located 25 miles SE E of Missoula, MT. Type 2 Incident Management Team (Almas, IC). Complex includes previously reported: Sliderock, Goat Creek and Little Hogback fires. Timber (litter, grass and understory) and closed timber. Active fire behavior with torching and spotting. Numerous structures threatened. Evacuations, road, trail and area closures in effect. For more information visit <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5364/>.

ALICE CREEK, Helena-Lewis and Clark NF. Monitor, confine and full suppression management strategy. Unknown cause, located 15 miles NW of Lincoln, MT. Type 2 Incident Management Team (Bird, IC). Timber (grass litter and understory), short grass (1foot). Active fire behavior. Structures threatened. Evacuations, road, trail, and area closures in effect.

CONROW, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF. Full suppression management strategy. Lightning caused, located 7 miles NE of Whitehall, MT. Timber (litter and understory), brush (2 feet) and tall grass (2.5 feet). Moderate fire behavior with isolated and group torching. Structures threatened. Road, trail and area closures in effect.

CARIBOU, Kootenai NF. Monitor and Point Zone Protection. Lightning caused, located 21 miles NW of Eureka, MT. Timber (litter and understory). Moderate fire behavior with group torching and short range spotting. Fire has crossed the Canadian border; Canadian resources are working their side of the line.

MEYERS, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF. Full suppression management strategy. Lightning caused, located 25 miles SW of Philipsburg, MT. Type 2 Incident Management Team IMT2 (Leach). Timber (litter and understory). Moderate fire behavior with short crown runs and group and single tree torching. Evacuations, road and area closures in effect.

PARK CREEK, Helena-Lewis and Clark NF. Full suppression, point zone protection and confine management strategy. Lightning caused, located 2 miles N of Lincoln, MT. Timber (litter and understory). Moderate fire behavior. Area closure in effect. The Park Creek and Arrastra Creek fires have merged, and future updates will be reported under the Park Creek fire.

ARRASTRA CREEK, Helena-Lewis and Clark NF. Full suppression, point zone protection and confine management strategy. Lightning caused, located 6 miles NW of Lincoln, MT. Minimal fire behavior. The Park Creek and Arrastra Creek fires have merged, and future updates for both will be reported under the Park Creek fire.

SPRAGUE, Glacier National Park. Point zone protection and confine management strategy. Lightning caused, located 9 miles NE of West Glacier, MT. WFMT (Hutton, IC). Timber (litter and understory). Moderate fire behavior with group and single tree torching, and backing. Trail closures in effect.

GIBRALTER RIDGE, Kootenai NF. Full Suppression and point zone protection management strategy. Lightning caused, located 7 miles E of Eureka, MT. Timber (grass and understory). Moderate fire behavior with group and single tree torching. Multiple structures threatened. Road, trail and area closures in effect.

MENDENHALL, Sweet Grass County, MT. Full suppression management strategy. Unknown cause, located 1 mile W of McLeod, MT. Timber (grass and understory), short grass (1 foot), brush (2 feet). Moderate fire behavior with isolated torching and creeping. Numerous residences threatened.

HANOVER, Nez Perce-Clearwater NF. Full suppression, monitor and point zone protection management strategy. Lightning caused, located 17 miles NW of Riggins, ID. Type 2 Incident Management Team (Bales, IC). Timber (litter and understory), timber (grass and understory), and closed timber litter. Moderate fire behavior with backing and uphill runs. Multiple residences, lookout structures, active mine, grazing and communication sites threatened. Road, trail and area closures in effect.

TAMARACK, Kootenai NF. Full Suppression management strategy. Lightning caused, located 9 miles NE of Happy's Inn, MT. Timber (litter and understory). Minimal fire behavior with torching, smoldering and creeping. High tension power lines and timber values threatened. Road closures in effect.

DOONAN, Miles City District. BLM. Full suppression management strategy. Lightning caused, located 26 miles W of Broadus, MT. Timber (grass and understory), and closed timber litter. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering.

BLUE BAY, Flathead Agency, BIA. Full suppression management strategy. Lightning caused, located 10 miles NE of Polson, MT. Timber (grass, litter, and understory) and closed timber litter. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Watershed, commercial timber, cultural, and recreation areas threatened. Road, trail and area closures in effect.

DITCH CREEK, Helena-Lewis and Clark NF. Full suppression management strategy. Lightning caused, located 27 miles NW of White Sulpher Springs, MT. Timber (grass, litter and understory). Moderate fire behavior with short crown runs and spotting.

TRAIL CREEK, Northern Cheyenne Agency. BIA. Full suppression management strategy. Lightning caused, located 18 miles SW of Lame Deer, MT. Timber (grass and understory), heavy logging slash, and brush (2 feet). Minimal fire behavior.

WOLVERINE, Blackfeet Agency, BIA. Full suppression management strategy. Human caused, located 7 miles E of Babb, MT. Timber (grass and understory), brush (2 feet), and short grass (1 foot). Minimal fire behavior.

SAGEBRUSH DRAW, Miles City District. BLM. Full suppression management strategy. Unknown cause, located 19 miles S of Glendive, MT. Timber (grass and understory), and closed timber litter. Declared 100% contained.

MITCHELL, Miles City District. BLM. Full suppression management strategy. Lightning caused, located 18 miles SE of Forsyth, MT. Short grass (1 foot), brush (2 feet), and timber (grass and understory). Declared 100% contained.

MAUER MOUNTAIN, Central Land Office, Montana DNR. Full suppression management strategy. Human caused, located 20 miles S of Dillon, MT. Timber (grass and understory), tall grass (2.5 feet) and brush (2 feet). Declared 100% contained.

HOLMES GULCH, Central Land Office, Montana DNR. Full suppression management strategy. Unknown cause, located 3 miles S of Helena, MT. Timber (grass, litter and understory). Declared 100% contained.

1026, Miles City District. BLM. Full suppression management strategy. Lightning caused, located 32 miles SW of Miles City, MT. Short grass (1 foot), brush (2 feet), and timber (grass and understory). Declared 100% contained.

Fire Information

Helena Headquarters	John Grassy	406-444-0465
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Links to Other Information

Montana Fires on Inciweb	http://inciweb.nwccg.gov/state/27/
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
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
Current Fire Restrictions in Montana	https://firerestrictions.us/