

# Roaring Lion Fire Update

Wednesday, August 17, 2016, 7:30 a.m.

Fire Information: (406) 241-4338

Phone hours: 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Bitterroot National Forest, Darby Ranger District, 5 miles southwest of Hamilton, MT.

Information on the activities of the Type 3 Incident Management Team and the status of the Roaring Lion Fire can be obtained by calling 406-241-4338 or by visiting the Bitterroot National Forest Supervisors office at 1801 N First in Hamilton, MT. Information boards will remain in place at the Darby Ranger Station and at the Bitterroot National Forest Supervisors Office in Hamilton.

**Yesterday:** *Lookouts continued to monitor fire behavior in Ward bowl to keep an eye on fire activity. They were tasked with assessing fire behavior and preventing fire from getting established outside of the bowl. Aircraft activity increased over the area as fire behavior picked up around midday. Mopping-up around the fire perimeter and reinforcing suppression work around homes in the fire area continues to be the priority in daily operations. Managers intend to continue mopping-up until they are confident that no re-ignitions near firelines or homes will occur.*

*Although the hot, dry weather continues to “test” fireline, no smoke or flames have been seen on the eastern edge. This lack of activity along the perimeter and near homes is a good sign and reinforces the quality of work completed.*

*Smoke will continue to be visible from the interior of the burn area for the foreseeable future and most likely until a season ending event such as substantial rain or winter weather affects the fire area.*

**Today:** Lookouts will continue to monitor the fire behavior in the Ward bowl area. Expect to see aircraft over this area again as fire behavior picks up around noon. The insertion of ground resources into the area is still being evaluated. Rugged, difficult terrain and limited safety zones remain a challenge. Mopping-up around the fire perimeter and reinforcing suppression work around homes in the fire area continues to be the priority in daily operations. Fire managers intend to continue patrolling and mop-up until they are confident that no re-ignitions near firelines or homes will occur.

**Air Operations:** Aerial resources, both rotor and fixed wing, continue to be available for use both on this incident and for initial attack. Incident aircraft are providing tactical and logistical support as well as medevac capabilities should the need arise. Operations over the Ward bowl area assisting in reconnaissance and suppression activities continues.

**Flight Restrictions:** A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) remains in effect over this fire. *It has been reduced in size to match the perimeter of the fire.* Please check with the FAA or your local flight service station prior to flying in the area of the fire.

## STATISTICS

**Detected:** July 31, 2016

**Cause:** Under Investigation

**Current Size:** 8,311  
As of 7:00 AM August 16, 2016

**Containment:** 70%

**Structures Lost:** 16 residences  
and 49  
outbuildings

**Estimated Costs:** \$8,900,000.00

### Resources:

Type 1 Hand Crews: 0

Type 2 Hand Crews: 2

Camp Crews: 1

Dozers: 0

Engines: 4

Water Tenders: 2

Helicopters: 3

Air Tankers: 0

Air Attack: 0

Overhead: 25

Total Personnel: 107

(over)

**Weather and Fire Behavior:** High temperatures are forecasted to reach into the high 80s low 90s with humidity getting into the mid-teens low twenties. Winds should be out of the north at 5-10 mph. This weather pattern may continue into Thursday. By Thursday evening the forecast calls for a Canadian cold front moving over the area bringing a chance of moisture and temperatures in the mid-70s to 80s. ***Smoke will continue to be visible from the interior of the burn area for the foreseeable future and most likely until a season ending event such as substantial rain or winter weather affects the fire area.***

**Evacuations:** *The evacuation area south of the North Gold Creek Loop Road remains in Stage One Warning and Alert. On roads limited to residents only, permits will be available at roadblocks at the Ravalli Sheriff's office.* Information regarding evacuation areas can be found on the Ravalli County Sheriff's app for mobile phones, their Facebook page and by calling the Ravalli County Sheriff's Office at 406-375-4060 or at the fire information phone numbers listed above.

**Closures:** Area closures remain in effect. Camas Creek, Coyote Coulee, Roaring Lion, Sawtooth and Ward Mountain Trailheads are all closed and will remain closed until the risk to the public has been mitigated. The closure also includes the Coyote Coulee trail system and trail #59 up the North Fork of Lost Horse Creek. Observation Point road is also closed. **Contact the Bitterroot National Forest or the Fire Information Office for details.**

Residents returning to their homes should be cautious and watch out for fire weakened trees. These trees may appear to be completely healthy, but can fall with little or no warning even without wind influence. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/gut7awn> for additional information.

**Cooperating Agencies:** Ravalli County Sheriff, Ravalli County Volunteer Fire Departments, Montana DNRC, Red Cross, Montana DOT, Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks and Northwestern Energy.

**Additional Fire Information Contacts:**

Inciweb <a href="http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/">http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/</a>	Bitterroot NF Facebook <a href="http://www.facebook.com/DiscoverBitterrootNF">www.facebook.com/DiscoverBitterrootNF</a>
Bitterroot NF Twitter <a href="http://www.twitter.com/BitterrootNF">www.twitter.com/BitterrootNF</a>	Bitterroot NF <a href="http://bit.ly/29nsEak">http://bit.ly/29nsEak</a>
Fire Restrictions <a href="http://firerestrictions.us/">http://firerestrictions.us/</a>	Fire Information E-mail <a href="mailto:roaringlionfireinfo@gmail.com">roaringlionfireinfo@gmail.com</a>
Mobile app for Android <a href="http://bit.ly/29yFV1F">http://bit.ly/29yFV1F</a>	Mobile app for Apple <a href="http://apple.co/29xbl3H">http://apple.co/29xbl3H</a>
Facebook <a href="http://www.facebook.com/Ravalli-County-Sheriffs-Office-261112620728766/?fref=nf">www.facebook.com/Ravalli-County-Sheriffs-Office-261112620728766/?fref=nf</a>	