

Fire Information – Bear Creek Fire

Saturday, Aug 15, 2015 8:15 AM



Flathead National Forest

Fire Information: (406) 758-3483
Email: bearcreekfire2015@gmail.com
Web: inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4500/

FIRE SUMMARY: The Bear Creek Fire, as well as other fires, are burning on the Spotted Bear Ranger District, in the Flathead National Forest. Management actions will be taken to confine the fires where appropriate and as resources are available, with firefighter and public safety as a priority, as well as to minimize impacts to recreationists, the local outfitter & guides and resorts, and the Spotted Bear Ranger Station facilities.

Location: Spotted Bear MT, 53 miles south of Hungry Horse, MT. Bear Creek is approximately 5.5 miles southwest of Spotted Bear.
Legal Description: T24N, R16W, Sec 13
Lat/Long: 47° 50.826 x 113° 35.346
Detected: August 12, 2015, with continuing new starts through August 15th **Cause:** Lightning
Total Acres: 171 **Total Containment:** 0%
Resources Assigned: Total Personnel: 22; Firefighters: 11; Engines: 1, Helicopters: 1; Overhead: 9 Additional resources are arriving. The Type 3 team is comprised of Flathead National Forest, and MT State Department of Natural Resources.



Bear Creek Fire activity.

FIRE STATUS:

The Bear Creek Fire is burning to the southwest of the Spotted Bear area; there are multiple other fires burning on the Spotted Bear Ranger District as well. Yesterday, August 14th, the fires received extreme weather, with high winds, lightning, and localized rain. The fires did not rapidly grow in the morning and afternoon, and a helicopter performed water drops on the Bear Creek Fire to cool the leading edge; however a second wave of weather passed over the fires around 5:30 p.m., late enough in the evening that firefighters were not able to make a full evaluation of how this weather affected the fires. Today, August 15th, fire managers will be monitoring the fires to determine their current size and spread, as well as evaluating opportunities to send firefighters directly to the highest priority fires to build fire line. Road and trail closures are in place, and more are being developed at this time, please contact the ranger district for more specifics.

Multiple other fires are burning on the Spotted Bear Ranger District, including in the Spotted Bear River area, and the upper Middle Fork and upper South Fork. There were at least 8 new starts from yesterday's lightning storm. The Trail Creek Fire, located up Spotted Bear River has been highly active and visible in the Spotted Bear area.

CLOSURES:

Please see attached maps.

- The Spotted Bear River Road #568 is closed, as well as the trailheads and trail system which start from this road.
- Extensive trail closures in the upper Middle Fork are being developed - please call for more information.
- Trail closures are in place for the Bunker Creek Trail system and Chipmunk Creek Trail.
- A Temporary Flight Restriction is in place, 4 nautical miles around the Bear Creek Fire. This does not affect the public airstrips in the area.