



West Fork Fire

Custer Gallatin National Forest

West Fork Fire Information Line

406-468-1904 Hours 8:00 am-8:00 pm

Email: donald_davis@firenet.gov

September 02, 2025

A very special thank you to our cooperating organizations for their ongoing support:

Hebgen Basin Fire Department
Big Sky Fire Department
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Campfire Lodge

West Fork Fire

Start: 08/19/2025

Cause: Under Investigation

Size: 963 acres

Containment: 83%

Total Personnel: 125

Location: 23 miles northwest of West Yellowstone, Montana. Located in the South Madisons, just north of Beaver Creek Forest Service cabin, Hebgen Ranger District, Custer Gallatin National Forest, MT.

KEY MESSAGES:

The fire does not currently pose a threat to Big Sky. Visitors and residents should avoid the fire area, especially near aviation operations at Hebgen Lake. Firefighting aircraft may dip into Hebgen Lake: drones are strictly prohibited in the fire area or near Hebgen Lake, as their use can ground aircraft and jeopardize safety. A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) is in effect for the fire area.

CURRENT ACTIVITY:

On Monday, containment on the West Fork Fire increased further, with crews making steady progress in the western division. In addition, aviation resources completed about ten cargo backhaul missions, retrieving equipment from the spike camp where the smokejumpers and the Prescott interagency Hotshot Crew had been stationed. Another infrared flight on the northwest side of the fire revealed additional hotspots that will be a priority area for Tuesday's operations.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR:

Tuesday is forecast to see another warm, dry day. It will be mostly sunny with 0% chance of precipitation. Maximum temperatures will be between 73 and 77 degrees with minimum relative humidities between 16 and 20 percent. Winds and predicted to be out of the north at 5 to 10 mph with gusts up to 25 mph in the afternoon.

CLOSURES:

On August 20, 2025, the Custer Gallatin National Forest issued temporary closures for safety:

Road Closures - Forest Service Road 985 (Beaver Creek Road) in its entirety from the junction with State Highway 287 in T11S R3E NW1/4 of the NE1/4 S21 to the end of the road in T10S R3E SW1/4 of the SE1/4 S28.

Trail Closures - All or portions of Lightning Trail No. 200, Trail 201, and Sentinel Trail No. 202, Trail 158, Trail 88, Trail 206, Trail 205, Trail 222, Trail 152. See closure order for details on each.

View the Closure order on the Custer Gallatin National Forest website:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r01/custergallatin/alerts/west-fork-fire-road-and-trail-closure-order-01-11-07-25-0-2>

PUBLIC ADVISORY:

A [Temporary Flight Restriction \(TFR\)](#) is in place over the fire area. No drones or private aircraft are permitted near the fire. The TFR provides a safe environment for firefighting aircraft operations. Using drones and flying private aircraft in the fire area can halt air operations and suppression efforts, jeopardizing the safety of all firefighting resources.

Residents are encouraged to sign up for the Gallatin County Emergency Management's Community Notification System for timely updates: <https://www.readygallatin.com/public-warning/community-notification-system/>

No evacuations are in effect. Gallatin County Sheriff's deputies are monitoring the situation. The Big Sky Fire Department is assisting with firefighting efforts and home assessment work with local property owners.

For air quality and smoke information, visit www.airnow.gov/wildfires/.

Fire information can be found on Inciweb: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/mtcgf-west-fork-fire>