



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 03, 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: 102

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:

Steady progress is being made on the West Fork Fire. The northwestern portion of the fire was a primary priority for Tuesday's operations. Helicopter operations concentrated on hotspots in the northwest section of the fire, conducting bucket drops. While no growth or movement was observed in this area, pockets of heat became more active under the warm, dry conditions. Ground crews worked along the eastern side of the fire, mopping up about 1 chain (66 feet) inside the fire's edge to strengthen containment.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR:

Wednesday is forecast to be sunny with no chance of precipitation. Maximum temperatures will fall between 71 and 75 degrees. Minimum relative humidities will be fairly low between 19 and 23 percent. Winds are expected to be northwest at 5 to 10 mph with gusts up to 20 mph.

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 No. 7, 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>