



West Fork Fire

Custer Gallatin National Forest

West Fork Fire Information Line

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

Email: melissa_perez@usda.gov

September 09, 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: 72

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 the community of Big Sky. Closures will continue as firefighters work in the area on hot spots and mitigate hazards. Please note the trail closures and plan your activities to avoid the fire area. Firefighting aircraft may be operating in the area near Hebgen Lake, for their safety and continued operation, a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) is in effect and drones are strictly prohibited in the fire area.

CURRENT ACTIVITY:

Though fire behavior remains minimal, pockets of heat were detected on the northwest side of the fire. In response, helicopters conducted bucket drops in that area today. Unmanned aircraft operations (UAS) will continue to fly infrared (IR) flights to detect any additional hot spots. Crews will continue to focus on mop up and containment operations on the fire perimeter.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR:

Chances of precipitation increase on Tuesday. Maximum temperatures are predicted to be between 63 and 67 degrees. Minimum relativity humidity values will be between 35-39.

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>