

# Fire Information – Bear Creek Fires Monday, Aug 17, 2015 1:00 PM



## Flathead National Forest

**Fire Information:** (406) 758-3483  
**Email:** [bearcreekfire2015@gmail.com](mailto:bearcreekfire2015@gmail.com)  
**Web:** [www.incweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4500/](http://www.incweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4500/)

**FIRE SUMMARY:** The Bear Creek Fires are non-wilderness fires located near Spotted Bear, in the Flathead National Forest. Other fires are burning on the Spotted Bear Ranger District within the wilderness as well. 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 15<sup>th</sup> **Cause:** Lightning  
**Total Acres:** 3401.5 **Total Containment:** 0%  
**Resources Assigned:** Total Personnel: 46; 1 helicopter, multiple pieces of heavy equipment. New resources are arriving to the fire. Multiple resources are being loaned to the fire on a day by day basis.



View over the Flat Creek Fire.

**FIRE STATUS:** Yesterday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, the fires had mild to moderate fire behavior due to the cooler weather in the area. Firefighters and heavy equipment were sent to staff the highest priority fires, and a helicopter was used to shuttle supplies and equipment. One new fire was detected, the Cinnabar Ridge Fire, and firefighters worked to suppress that fire. Today, August 17<sup>th</sup>, firefighters and heavy equipment will be used to build fire line on the highest priority fires, as well as remain prepared to staff new start fires and support the wilderness fires in the area as needed. Monitoring of unstaffed fires will continue. Road, trail and area closures are in place. Multiple other fires are burning on the Spotted Bear Ranger District, including in the upper Middle Fork.

**Bear Creek Fire** – Size: 200 acres Status: Monitor the fire; the fire has been backing and creeping within the Bear Creek drainage. This fire is burning in the 2000 Chipmunk Creek Fire area. Trail closures are in place.  
**Cinnabar Creek Fire** – Size: 1/4<sup>th</sup> acre Status: Staffed with firefighters constructing fire line.  
**Late Creek Fire** – Size: 1 acre Status: Monitoring the fire.  
**Trail Creek Fire** – Size: 3000 acres Status: Monitor and prevent fire from crossing the Spotted Bear River Road. Road, trail, and area closures in place.  
**Flat Creek Fire** – Size: 200 acres Status: Use an excavator, a dozer, and firefighters building fire line.  
**Cinnabar Ridge Fire** – Size: 1/4<sup>th</sup> acre Status: Staffed with firefighters building fire line.

**CLOSURES:** Please see attached maps.

- The Spotted Bear River Road #568 is closed, as well as the trailheads and trail systems which start from this road.
- An extensive area closure for the Trail Creek Fire is in place in the upper Middle Fork from the Spotted Bear River. Road and the Eastside Reservoir Road around Upper and Lower Twin Creek, eastward to Dolly Varden Creek.
- 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.
- Stage 1 Fire Restrictions are in place, limiting campfires only to places where there is a metal constructed fire ring.