



Hay Creek Fire

Flathead National Forest, Montana

JULY 29, 2021

INFORMATION

- **Phone:** (406) 219-1013, 8 am to 8 pm
- **Email:** 2021.HayCreek@firenet.gov
- **InciWeb:**
<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7712/>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/discovertheflathead>
- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/FlatheadNF>



Scan the code with your smart phone to visit Hay Creek Fire on InciWeb.

STATISTICS

- **Location:** 4 miles west of Polebridge, MT
- **Date of Origin:** July 21, 2021
- **Cause:** Lightning
- **Total fire acres:** 2,020 acres
- **Containment:** 0%

A Community Meeting will be held Friday, July 30 at 6:00pm at Sondreson Community Hall.

RESOURCES

- **Engines:** 13
- **1 Type 2 Crew:** 20 people
- **2 Heavy Equipment Task Forces (Dozers, Skidgine, Excavators, water tenders)**
- **Helicopters:** 2 Type 1 Helicopters
- **Personnel:** 139

INCIDENT UPDATE

Fire activity was moderated by light rain Wednesday morning resulting in minimal smoke production throughout the day. Conditions were favorable to conduct small burnout operations to consume pockets of unburned fuel and help to hold the Hay Creek Road. Crews and heavy equipment continued to make progress strengthening fuel breaks, widening roads, and connecting past silvicultural forest management treatments. Nightshift observed single tree torching and several fire-weakened trees across the Hay Creek Road. Today fire personnel will work to cool spot fires identified south of the Hay Creek Road and continue to assess any structure protection needs. The Type 2 Incident Management Team (California 13) will transition to take over the fire on Sunday, August 1st.

EVACUATIONS

Evacuation Warnings include all residences east and west of the North Fork Road from Home Ranch Bottoms north to and including Moose Creek Road and the community of Polebridge. Glacier National Park (NP) has issued an Evacuation Warning for the North Fork area of Glacier NP north of Logging Creek. See details at <https://go.usa.gov/xFjcA> and [Current Fire Information - Glacier National Park](#).

CLOSURES

Road and trail closures are in place. See details at Inciweb: <https://go.usa.gov/xFjcC>.

WEATHER AND AIR QUALITY

High pressure will strengthen over the area on Thursday bringing warmer temperatures and dry conditions. Winds will be 5-9 mph out of the Southwest with gusts up to 20 mph. Poor humidity recoveries in the thermal belts will allow active fire behavior throughout the evening. For the most current fire weather forecast go to <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/fire?wfo=mso>. For smoke and air quality go to <http://svc.mt.gov/deq/todaysair/>. For current visibility in Glacier NP see <https://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/photosmultimedia/webcams.htm>.

INCIDENT BACKGROUND

The Hay Creek Fire was reported on the evening of July 21, 2021. It is burning in the North Fork area of the Flathead National Forest and is being managed by a local Type 3 Incident Management Team under a full suppression strategy using aviation resources and indirect tactics.

Public and firefighter safety is the number one priority. Additional priorities include minimizing impacts to private property, structures and critical infrastructure, and road corridors and natural resources. Due to high fire activity in our region and across the country, resources are limited and prioritized.

PREVENTION MESSAGE

Most of Montana is experiencing EXTREME fire danger; Stage 2 Fire Restrictions are in effect. Know Before You Go- Visit www.mtfireinfo.org for Montana fire restrictions.