

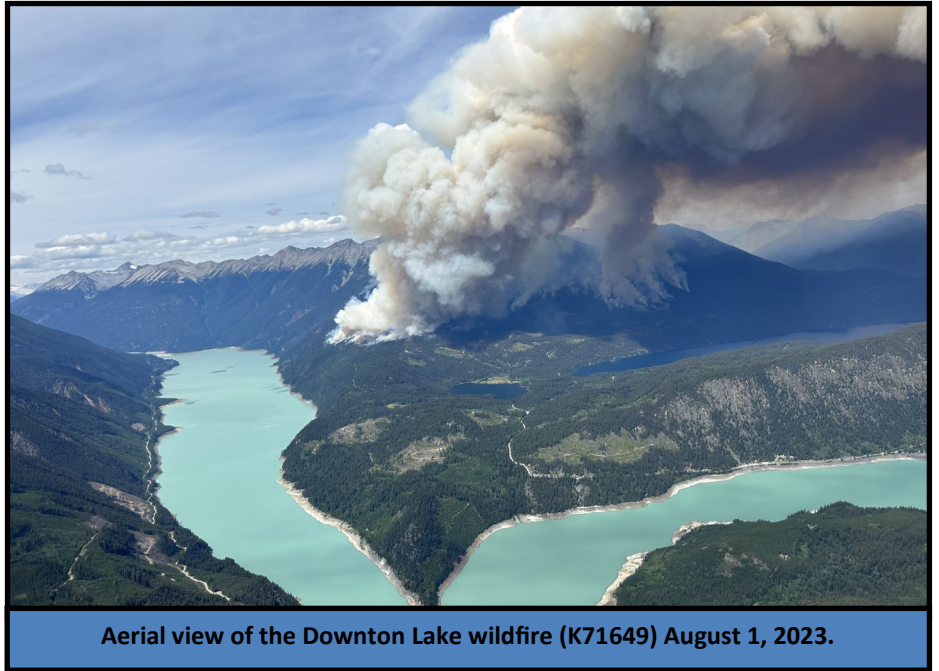
BENDOR RANGE COMPLEX WILDFIRE UPDATE

An Incident Management Team is in command of four wildfires located in the Lillooet Fire Zone:

- **Casper Creek wildfire (K71535)**
- **Downton Creek wildfire (K71649)**
- **Blackhills wildfire (K71778)**
- **Stein Mountain wildfire (K71634)**
- **Ponderosa Creek (K71705)**

Downton Lake wildfire (K71649)

The Downton Lake wildfire was last estimated to be 2,475 hectares in size. In the last 24 hours, active fire behaviour has been observed in the northern flank within the Walker Creek drainage, where the wildfire is burning upslope on the mountainside, and the southern flanks closest to Downton Lake. The wildfire is expected to grow in the southwest flank, burning in steep terrain and continuous forest fuels.



Aerial view of the Downton Lake wildfire (K71649) August 1, 2023.

There are roughly 130 personnel responding to the wildfire, including an Incident Management Team, ground personnel, and structure protection personnel. Helicopters continue responding throughout the day, as well as heavy equipment. In the southeast flank, ground crews are working in conjunction with heavy equipment to implement and reinforce existing guards, west of Lajoie Lake.

Along Gun Lake Road West, danger tree assessors and fallers continue working in conjunction with fire suppression crews and BC Hydro crews. This allows crews to work in a safer environment after danger trees have been removed. Structure protection crews have completed implementation along Gun Lake Road West, and continue triage and implementation of equipment on properties around Lajoie Lake.

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District has completed rapid damage assessments on impacted properties along Gun Lake Road West. We continue to work in conjunction with the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, Gun Lake Fire Bridge and BC Hydro within the community of Gun Lake. The safety of first responders and the public remains our collective top priority.

The Evacuation Order and Evacuation Alert issued by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District remains in place. More information is available at www.slrd.bc.ca/eoc.

BC Parks has closed South Chilcotin Mountains Park located northwest of Gold Bridge due to this wildfire. Updates on the park will be made available here: <https://bcparks.ca/south-chilcotin-mountains-park/>

BENDOR RANGE COMPLEX

Casper Creek wildfire (K71535)

The Casper Creek wildfire is now estimated to be 4,586 hectares in size. There are currently 35 BC Wildfire Service personnel on site, as well as 26 contract crew personnel, helicopters and heavy equipment.

Guard construction in the southwest flank closest to Six Mile Creek is complete, and the unit crew in this flank will work to extinguish remaining hot spots in the vicinity of properties. In the northeast flank, ground crews continue to use direct attack methods to implement a 50 ft wet-line into the fire's perimeter. Crew along the southeast flank near Seton Portage continue to patrol and extinguish hotspots within the fire perimeter closest to the community. A ground crew continues to work overnight, patrolling for remaining smoke spots in priority areas.

The Seton Lake Indian Band has downgraded their Evacuation Order to an Evacuation Alert. The Evacuation Order issued by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District remains in place. More information can be found [here](#).

Blackhills wildfire (K71778)

The Blackhills wildfire is seeing considerable containment on all flanks, with 35 personnel currently assigned. The wildfire is currently estimated to be 589 hectares in size.

The northwest flank in the Blackhills drainage continues to be the most active portion of the fire. Ground personnel are completing hand guards and mopping up remaining hotspots within 100 ft of the fire's perimeter.

Stein Mountain Wildfire (K71634)

The Stein Mountain Wildfire (K71634) is now estimated to be 333 hectares in size and remains classified as Out of Control. This wildfire continues to burn in very steep terrain and has continued to grow downslope in recent days. Because of this growth, the Thompson-Nicola Regional District and Lytton First Nation have upgraded their Evacuation Alerts to Evacuation Orders as of August 4, 2023. Please contact the respective local government for more information.

Yesterday, a BC Wildfire Service Structure Protection Specialist conducted triage on homes within the evacuation area in coordination with Lytton First Nation personnel. An initial attack crew is on site supporting structure protection today.

Ponderosa Creek wildfire (K71705)

The Bendor Range Complex Incident Management Team has assumed command of the Ponderosa Creek wildfire located approximately 20 kilometres northwest of Lytton within Stein Mountain Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park. This wildfire has been renamed from the "Lean-to Creek" wildfire to "Ponderosa Creek" wildfire. This wildfire is estimated to be 1,300 hectares in size and is receiving a monitored response in conjunction with BC Parks. The fire will continue to be monitored from the air in coming days.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

BC Wildfire Service

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Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

Emergency Operations Centre

www.slrld.bc.ca/EOC

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Thompson-Nicola Regional District

Emergency Operations Centre

250-377-7188

www.tnrd.ca/services/emergency-services/

Lytton First Nation

250-455-2304

