



Baldy and Wash Fires
Southern Area Red Team
Wednesday, August 26, 2015 8:00 AM
Fire Information Office, 208-842-2215
Hours of Operation: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m



Back-ground/ Current Status	<p>The Wash and Baldy fires were caused by lightning strikes on August 10 in the Red River Ranger District of the Nez Perce National Forest near Elk City, Idaho. With dry conditions, gusty winds, steep terrain and a shortage of firefighting resources due to multiple fire starts and existing fires, the fires quickly grew. The Baldy Fire threatened homes in the Newsome area of Elk City and the northern edge of the Wash Fire imminently threatened historic Meadow Creek cabins. The Wash Fire is about nine miles northeast of Elk City.</p> <p>The area is in a prolonged drought, which is expected to continue. Fires are expected to be active until a significant, season-ending weather event occurs, which may not occur until mid/late October.</p>	
Yesterday's Events	<p>Baldy: Firefighters assessed fire activity and found in addition to a 50-acre slopover on the west side, a 20-acre slopover that was well-established. The fire was also active on the northern flank. Firefighters did not engage the fire in these areas and started indirect line improvement on the 424 Road and other roads and trails away from the fire's edge. Structure protection in Newsome continued.</p> <p>Wash: Firefighters began opening old fire contingency lines on Green and Horse ridges and along the Anderson Butte Trail.</p> <p>A public meeting about the fires in Elk City was attended by about 85 local residents.</p>	
Planned Events	<p>Baldy Fire: Firefighters will continue to construct indirect fireline along the 424 Road and other existing roads around the Baldy Fire. Structure protection in the Newsome area will continue and structures in Golden will be assessed for protection.</p> <p>Wash Fire: Firefighters will continue opening old fire contingency lines on Green and Horse ridges and along the Anderson Butte Trail. If helicopters are able to fly, firefighters will wrap the historic Meadow Creek cabins and a lookout. Materials for this work must be dropped in by air.</p>	
Fire	Baldy	Wash
Start date	August 10, 2015	August 10, 2015
Acres	1,350 (no change due to lack of infrared flight)	24,066 (no change due to lack of infrared flight)
% contain- ment	25	0
Crews	4	3
Engines	6	1
Personnel	93	153
Restric- tions and Closures	<p>Several areas are closed due to the Baldy, Wash and other fires in the area. Visit the Nez-Perce-Clearwater National Forest web site for more information (www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/nezperceclearwater/alerts-notice).</p>	
Evacu- ations	<p>A Level I Evacuation Alert has been issued for the Elk City area, including Newsome, due to potential high winds and the potential for growth on both the Baldy and Wash Fires. A Level I alert means wildfire is a threat and it would be wise to consider planning and/or packing in the event an evacuation becomes necessary.</p>	
Fire Weather	<p>Hot and dry with highs near 80 and humidity around 25 percent. West winds 6 to 8 miles per hour. A strong inversion is expected.</p>	