



NEWS RELEASE

Central Idaho Dispatch
Salmon - Challis National Forest,
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~~Public and firefighter safety is the highest priority in fighting all wildland fires.~~

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FIRE UPDATE

July 17, 2007
Salmon, Idaho

New Fires

Lightning started two fires on the Salmon-Challis National Forest today. The Pine Fire is burning 2 miles south east of the Stormy Peak lookout, near Arastra Gulch in the Pine Creek drainage on the North Fork Ranger District. Six rappellers and 10 firefighters from the Kootenai Crew are working on the fire which is burning in grass and timber.

The Half Moon Fire was spotted one mile south west of Sulphur Creek Ranch in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. Two rappellers are working on the fire which is currently less than an acre.

Van Horn Fire

The fire grew from 75 acres to 150 acres Monday evening. It is burning near the head of Van Horn Creek in the Morgan Creek drainage 16 miles north east of Challis. Seventy firefighters are working on the fire.

Clear Sage Fire

The Clear Sage Fire includes four lightning caused fires that have burned a total of 461 acres south east of the Sagebrush Lookout in the Clear Creek drainage in the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness. These fires are in the area burned by the Clear Creek Fire in 2000 and are being managed using confine and contain strategy because of the steep rugged terrain and because the area was heavily burned during the 2000 fire.

Basin Fire

The 200 acre fire, seven miles northeast of Stanley, was declared controlled July 16.

Tappan Fire

The fire has burned five acres in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. It will be managed using a Wildland Fire Use strategy which will allow fire to play its natural role in the wilderness. The fire will be analyzed and carefully monitored.

Bohannon

The 42 acre Bohannon Fire is smoldering and creeping in a steep narrow drainage north of Bohannon Creek 10 miles southeast of Salmon. Due to steep slopes, falling rocks and snags and numerous abandoned mines, fire managers are utilizing natural and human made barriers to contain the fire rather than putting firefighters at risk in the extremely hazardous terrain. The fire will be held north of Bohannon Creek, south of Geertson creek, west of the Continental Divide, and east of private property boundaries.

Fire Restrictions

Because of increased fire activity and continuing hot dry weather Stage 1 Fire Restrictions will go into effect Thursday, July 19, on the Salmon-Challis and the Caribou – Targhee National Forests, and Friday, July 20 in three central Idaho Wilderness Areas; the Frank Church – River of No Return, Selway – Bitterroot and Gospel – Hump.