



**NEWS
RELEASE**

Central Idaho Dispatch
Salmon - Challis National Forest,
Salmon Field Office, Idaho Falls
District, BLM
1206 S. Challis St.
Salmon, Idaho 83467



~~Public and firefighter safety is the highest priority in fighting all wildland fires.~~

Contact: Kent Fuellenbach (208)756-5145, e-mail kfuellenbach@fs.fed.us

FIRE UPDATE

July 26, 2007
Salmon, Idaho

No New fires were reported. Stage I Fire Restrictions remain in place for the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

Van Horn

The Van Horn Fire burned an additional 150 acres yesterday bringing the total to 1,650 acres. New resources are arriving on the fire today and tomorrow that will bring the total to nine 20-person crews. The total number of fire fighters, including overhead, will be 212. Other resources include four engines and two dozers. The fire, burning in the Morgan Creek drainage 15 miles north east of Challis, is 45% contained. The spread of the fire could increase today because of predicted thunder storms with gusty winds.

Some local citizens have expressed concerns that the Van Horn Fire could have been controlled if the Forest Service had taken action sooner. The fire was reported to Central Idaho Fire Center at 1336 (1:36 p.m.) on Sunday, July 15. Within ten minutes, the following resources were in route to the fire; one helicopter with two rappellers, a second helicopter rigged for bucket drops, three engines and a five person hand crew.

The Fire Center has dispatched resources to 72 fires this season. Despite extremely hot and dry weather conditions, initial attack resources have kept 62 of those starts to fires less than one acre. Two fires are wildland use fires in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness that have covered between 10 and 25 acres each. Three of the fires were controlled at less than 20 acres, and two reached 200 to 300 acres. Two fires, being managed using a confine/contain strategy, have covered 42 acres (Bohannon) and 461 acres (Clear Sage). The Van Horn Fire is the only fire that has burned more than 1,500 acres this summer.

Clear Sage

No change in acreage – 461. The fire area closure remains in effect.

Bohannon

No change in acreage - 42 acres.

