



Wildfire Fact Sheet

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GARDEN FIRE UPDATE OCTOBER 7, 2024

Fire Name: Garden Fire

Fire Size: 7,186 acres

Cause: lightning

Location: approximately two (2) miles southwest of the confluence of Panther Creek and the Main Salmon River on the North Fork Ranger District in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness.

Fuels: grass, brush, dead and down fuels, and timber

Resources: 150 people

InciWeb: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/idscf-garden-fire>

Fire situation: Firefighter and public safety is the number one priority for the Garden Fire. Fire managers are using a point protection strategy (a wildfire response strategy, which protects specific assets or highly valued resources from the wildfire without directly halting the continued spread of the wildfire) to minimize exposure to fire personnel while protecting identified values, including private property and Forest Service infrastructure.

Yesterday, the inversion layer did not lift, which helped to moderate fire activity. The fire continues to grow in the Garden Creek drainage and to the ridge to the north, towards the Salmon River. Fire is currently holding in the upper reaches of Clear Creek, however between lower Clear Creek, Dry, Tea, and Bear Gulches, the fire is backing down towards Panther Creek. Due to limited visibility, fire managers are using an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) technology for infrared flights and small scale firing operations to help secure the fire's edges.

With additional resources arriving, the fire has added a night shift. Today, the presence of firefighters, primarily in the Panther Creek and Salmon River areas will continue as crews continue to work to evaluate and assess various point protection strategies to minimize impacts to values in the area. Aircraft, both fixed wing and helicopters, will be used if weather and smoke conditions allow. Fire managers are continuing to look for opportunities to engage the fire direct as fuels and weather conditions change and it is safe to do so.

Evacuations: Lemhi County Law Enforcement, Emergency Management, and the Salmon-Challis National Forest have established 2 evacuation zones for the Garden Fire.

Zone 1: From Cove Creek to Ebenezer Bar, downriver along the Salmon River Road #030.

Zone 2: On Panther Creek Rd #055, a half mile south of Beaver Creek Rd #057 to the Salmon River Rd #030 confluence.

ZONE 1 is in "READY" status

ZONE 2 is in "GO" status

Weather: Weak westerly flow today will keep skies clear and continue the warming trend, although afternoon humidity should change little. A very weak low will shift wind to more southwesterly starting tonight. This will bring in more cloudiness, but the chance for precipitation is still nearly zero. Wind should peak on Wednesday afternoon with the low passing to the east, bringing slightly colder air for Thursday.

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