



Wildfire Fact Sheet

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GARDEN FIRE UPDATE OCTOBER 9, 2024

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

...RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT FROM NOON TO 9 PM MDT TODAY FOR GUSTY WINDS AND LOW RELATIVE HUMIDITY...

Fire Size: 8,379 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: 173 people with additional resources arriving today.

Fire situation: Firefighter and public safety is the number one priority for the Garden Fire. Fire managers are using a combination of full suppression and 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.

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 and Dry to Bear Gulch, the fire is backing down towards Panther Creek. Fire managers were able to use an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) for small scale fire operations yesterday to help secure the fire's edges. While visibility is improving, use of the UAS continues for infrared flights so fire managers can continue to monitor fire movement.

Presence of firefighters, primarily in the Panther Creek and Salmon River areas on both a day and night shift, will continue today. Crews are preparing for the anticipated winds and are strategically placed to respond in case the fire spots over the Salmon River. 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 three (3) 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 3: Panther Creek to Spring Creek to include private land up Spring Creek

ZONE 1 is in "GO" status

ZONE 2 is in "GO" status

ZONE 3 IS IN "READY" STATUS

Information on evacuation status can be found on Lemhi County's website, <https://www.lemhicityidaho.org/>, under 'News and Notices.'

Weather: ...RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT FROM NOON TODAY TO 9 PM MDT THIS EVENING FOR GUSTY WINDS AND LOW RELATIVE HUMIDITY...As a dry cold front passes overhead today, look for an increase in winds and cloud cover with gusts peaking around 25-35 mph and RH in the teens. Under the continued influence of a broad region of a high pressure overhead, look for seasonably warm and dry conditions to continue into early next week.

Closures: There are two closures associated with the Garden Fire. The Red Rock/Black Eagle and Garden Fire Closure #004-13-24-024 and the Garden Fire Closure #04-13-24-025 can be found at on the Salmon-Challis National Forest Website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/scnf/alerts-notices>. Closure #04-13-24-025 was put in place due to current fire behavior and predicted winds of 18-23 mph with gusts to 30-35 mph, with a 0% chance of wetting rain in the next seven (7) days. With these conditions, the Garden Fire has the potential to spot across the Salmon River to the north. If the fire spots across the river, with current fuel conditions and predicted winds, the fire has a potential to make a large run.

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