



**NEWS
RELEASE**



United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Salmon - Challis National Forest
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Comet Fire, Final Update

North Fork, Idaho – The Comet Fire, which was started by lightning on Tuesday, July 26, is now 83% contained and has not increased in size the past four days. This afternoon, the emergency area closure for the Comet Fire was terminated.

Fire danger remains very high. Hot, dry, windy weather can turn even the smallest spark into a fast-spreading wildfire. This afternoon, two engines assigned to the Comet Fire assisted the North Fork Fire Department in putting out a wildfire on private property adjacent to Highway 93. Although crews quickly suppressed the half-acre fire, the incident should remind us all to be careful with vehicles, tools, and machinery outdoors.

Although this will be the final update on the Comet Fire, firefighters will remain on the hill through the weekend to extinguish any remaining potential threats, such as smoldering logs. Neighbors may continue to see occasional smokes from inside the fire perimeter for the rest of the week.

With several other fires burning in Idaho and Montana, some residents may wish to check local air quality conditions. To find out whether your air is healthy when it gets smoky, check <http://airquality.deq.idaho.gov/>

Roaring Fire-The Roaring Fire, currently estimated at 186 acres, was also started on Tuesday, July 26 by the same storm passage as the Comet Fire. The Roaring Fire is burning in a remote part of the Frank Church-River of No Return wilderness on the ridge between Roaring and Goat Creeks above the confluence of the Middle Fork Salmon and Salmon Rivers. This fire is adjacent to the 2014 Goat Fire and is being managed to allow fire to play its natural role in wilderness. This fire may contribute to smoke in both the Main and Middle Fork of the Salmon Rivers depending on wind and weather conditions. At this time, this fire is not impacting river use or camps. There is a possibility that trail closures may be considered if the fire continues to grow.

Hospital Bar Fire- This fire is burning on both sides of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River at Hospital Bar. Firefighters continued to hold the fire at 102 acres for a second day. No closures are in place but caution is advised for visitors on the Middle Fork Trail and Cow Creek Trails in this area.

##End##

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