



**NEWS
RELEASE**



United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Salmon - Challis National Forest
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ROARING FIRE UPDATE AUGUST 31, 2016

SALMON, ID – The Roaring Fire, on the North Fork Ranger District is 5,439 acres. The 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 being allowed to play, as nearly as possible, its natural role in wilderness.

The Roaring Fire is actively burning in the Roaring Creek drainage between the Bighorn Crags and the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. Recently, the fire burned down to the Middle Fork Salmon River just down river of Roaring Creek. The fire has also continued to burn in the upper ends of Roaring Creek, near Mt. McGuire, and southwest of McGuire Lake. Because the Fire is now burning along the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, boaters need to be aware that they may observe fire activity. At this time, no boaters on the Middle Fork of the Salmon or the Salmon River are being impacted. Boaters should continue floating past the fire areas and should expect to see smoke and fire in a wilderness environment.

Personnel at Long Tom Lookout is monitoring the fire daily and fire managers will continue to monitor fire spread and potential impacts to river camps, trails, and campsites in the Bighorn Crags area. Fire managers expect the fire to grow into the fall. Expect to see smoke drifting into the valleys and river corridors, especially in the evenings. Smoke from the Pioneer Fire filtered into the Challis, North Fork, Salmon and Stanley areas on Tuesday. For more information, please visit the Idaho Smoke Blog: <https://idsmoke.blogspot.com>. **There is a red flag warning in effect until 10 pm mdt Thursday for gusty winds, low relative humidity, and isolated dry thunderstorms.** Weather the next several days predicts steady temperatures and humidities with isolated thunderstorms this afternoon.

The Salmon-Challis National Forest understands the inconvenience that fire, and the impacts associated with it, may cause to Forest visitors and the general public. The Forest will continue to promote an understanding of the value of allowing managed fire to play out its natural role in wilderness with regard to maintaining wilderness character, the natural role of fire, benefits to wildlife habitat, and reduced fire severity in the future. The inconveniences of isolated pockets of smoke and the short-term displacement of Forest visitors resulting from trail, camp, and area closures today are helping to ensure firefighter and public safety while allowing fire to play out its natural role in wilderness and help to reduce devastating impacts from fire in the future.

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All visitors to the Frank Church—River of No Return Wilderness should be prepared to deal with the effects of natural events. Visitors are about to experience a functioning, dynamic ecosystem that will evolve and change as nature molds and sculpts its landscape. When recreating in the Frank Church River of no Return Wilderness travel plans should be flexible, current conditions should be known, as well as a safe place to go (a safety zone) when fires are burning.

An Emergency Trail Closure for Public Safety for the Roaring Fire is in place. The closure area includes:

- Bighorn Crags Trail #6021 from just northwest of Big Clear Lake (T21N, R16E Section15) to Dome Mountain at the junction of Trail #6021 and Trail #6172 (T22N, R17E Section18).
- Garden Creek Trail #6172 is also closed from Dome Mountain (T22N, R17E Section 18) at its junction with Trail #6021 to terminus at Horse Heaven (T22N, R16E Section 12).

For more information on the Roaring Fire can be found on Inciweb at

<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4976/> You are also welcome to visit the Salmon-Challis National Forest website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/scnf/home>, and check out News & Events, 'Like Us' on <https://www.facebook.com/salmonchallisnf>, and 'Follow Us' on <https://twitter.com/SalmonChallisNF> for further information.

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