



United States Department of Agriculture

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Fire Update

MERIDIAN FIRE UPDATE

October 8, 2020

The Central Idaho Dispatch Zone is at **HIGH** Fire Danger.

On InciWeb @ <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7233/>

The Meridian Fire; reported October 5, is located approximately 22 miles south of Clayton in the Hunter Creek drainage on the Lost River Ranger District. The fire is established in the timber and is approximately 387 acres burning in Douglas fir and grass. Fire cause is unknown.

Firefighters observed active fire behavior yesterday afternoon. The fire was running with isolated torching and short-range spotting. The fire continues to burn to the northwest towards Hunter Creek Summit. Today, firefighters anticipate the fire to continue to spread to the northwest towards East Pass Creek with the forecasted winds and low relative humidity and afternoon warming.

Firefighters are using a confine and contain strategy. Firefighters are focusing on containing the southern portion of the fire and confining the fire on the east and west sides of the fire using natural barriers, engaging the fire where safe to do so. Firefighters have completed 7% containment along the southern portion of the fire. Firefighters anticipate favorable weather this weekend which at that time will slow fire growth to the north. The fire is staffed with one (1) Type I crew, four (4) helicopters, smokejumpers, and an engine.

CLOSURES: The Salmon-Challis National Forest has implemented an emergency area closure (#04-13-20-014) to protect Forest visitors from the current fire safety hazards associated with the Meridian Fire. The following is closed:
Area Described: The closure area is depicted on the map which can be found at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/map/7233/0/109523>. Roads and Trails Described: FS Road 477 Hunter Creek Road and FS Trail 050 Hunter Creek Trail. If you are recreating near an ongoing wildfire suppression operation, please keep your distance - do not congregate in the area and allow the firefighters to do their job safely and efficiently.

WEATHER: The ridge over the West begins breaking down today. Winds and low humidity may approach critical levels this afternoon in select locations. Haines of 5 and 6 will continue today as well as Friday. Rain, wind and colder weather arrives later Saturday into Sunday with snow down to around 5500ft briefly Sunday morning. Wetting rains are likely, some areas could easily see over 0.50 inches.

Smoke from the Meridian Fire could be seen from the Ketchum area. Nationally, there are 39 uncontained large fires being managed under a full suppression strategy and 36 large fires managed under a strategy other than full suppression. These fires are contributing to the smoke, which has been drifting into the Salmon-Challis National Forest and the valleys around the Forest. The public can find further information on smoke at <http://airquality.deq.idaho.gov/> and <http://idsmoke.blogspot.com>.

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Forest Service

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