



**NEWS
RELEASE**



United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Salmon - Challis National Forest
1206 South Challis St.
Salmon, Idaho 83467

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Goat Fire Update: August 14, 2014

DATE OF DETECTION: August 01, 2014 **CAUSE:** Lightning **SIZE:** Approximately 470 acres

LOCATION: The Goat Fire continues to burn in inaccessible terrain approximately two (2) miles southeast of the confluence of the Salmon River and the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, North Fork Ranger District, Salmon-Challis National Forest.

Due to extremely steep, rugged and inaccessible terrain it is unsafe to place firefighters on the ground. Precipitation over the past few days have aided in slowing the fire growth. The fire is burning in alpine fir patches along rock outcroppings and cliffs.

A Type 3 team is now managing the Goat Fire under a long-term plan focusing on firefighter and public safety. This includes monitoring fire activity and preparing a strategy for protection of structures and other values at risk as the fire area expands. Salmon-Challis National Forest Fire Managers expect the fire to burn throughout the rest of the summer or until a significant weather event occurs.

Fire related traffic and debris flows are adding to existing hazardous driving conditions along the Salmon River Road (030) and the Panther Creek road (055). Visitors are advised to be particularly careful and slow down for blind curves. Stopping distance on rural roads in remote areas can be much greater than needed on primary roads.

Wednesday afternoon thunderstorms impacted the Salmon River corridor. Heavy rain in the river breaks area caused two debris blowouts partially blocking the Salmon River Road (Forest Road 030). One flow was in the Colson Creek area and the other near Corn Creek. No injuries or damage were reported. Travel by 4 X 4 vehicles is advised between Colson and Corn Creeks. Road crews expect to have the road cleared by the end of today.

Over the past twenty-four hours lightning storms passing through Lemhi County caused 9 small fires ranging from a single tree to approximately one quarter acre. Of these starts four were contained as of Wednesday evening and fire crews are working to contain the others. Fire managers, lookouts, and field crews are on alert for additional starts that may occur as a result of ongoing unsettled weather conditions.

A trail closure is in place for the Horse Heaven Wilderness Trail (Forest Trail #6172) beginning at the junction with Forest Trail #6021, near Dome Mountain, heading northwest to the end of this trail near the Horse Heaven VABM (#8086), and continuing on the undesignated trail north to the Salmon River. The official order and map of the closure area and other information on the Goat Fire is available at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4056/>.