



**NEWS  
RELEASE**

United States  
Department of Agriculture

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

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**MIDDLE FORK COMPLEX UPDATE**

**Salmon, Idaho:** Currently, the Middle Fork Complex is comprised of the **Waterfall, Stoddard, Roaring, Harbor,** and **Alpine** fires.

**Dates of Detection:** **Waterfall:** August 11th; **Stoddard:** August 12th; **Roaring:** August 5th; **Harbor:** August 16th; and **Alpine:** August 13, 2015.

**Cause:** Lightning

**Size:** **Waterfall:** 4,006 acres; **Stoddard:** 867 acres; **Roaring:** 237 acres; **Harbor:** 5 acres; and **Alpine:** .1 acre.

**Location:** Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness; North Fork Ranger District, about 40 air miles West of Salmon, ID. **Waterfall:** East of the Middle Fork Salmon River, North of Waterfall Creek; **Stoddard:** West of the Middle Fork Salmon River, North of Cradle Creek; **Roaring:** in the Big Horn Crags; **Harbor:** adjacent to Harbor Lake; and **Alpine:** North side of Wilson Creek drainage.

**Fuels:** **Waterfall:** open timber and grass; **Stoddard:** open timber and grass; **Roaring:** open timber spreading into subalpine fir and white bark pine; **Harbor:** open timber; and **Alpine:** open timber.

**Managing Agency:** USDA Forest Service, Salmon-Challis National Forest

Due to the prediction of a cold front moving into the area tomorrow, a “red flag warning” from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM has been issued. The front will bring low relative humidity and sustained winds of 20-30 mph, with gusts to 40 mph.

The Waterfall Fire has continued to burn in strings of timber on the interior of the fire, but is not impacting the river corridor. The Stoddard Fire has been calm with no signs of spread today. The Roaring and Harbor Fires continue to experience torching and short-range spotting, resulting in moderate rates of spread. An infrared flight was not flown yesterday evening due to other fires in the region receiving higher priority.

The Teton Wildland Fire Module’s (WFM) swap of personnel in the Bighorn Crags went well today. Squad “B” has set up at Big Clear Lake and will be monitoring the Roaring and Harbor Fires, as well as providing for public safety. Squad “A” returned to the Incident Command Post (ICP) late today, and will spend tomorrow downloading photos and providing additional information to the team. On Sunday, they will be split into two groups, three firefighters on the river and two at the

Crags Campground. They will be providing fire information and tracking recreationalists in the area.

The Tusher WFM returned to ICP this evening and will be providing data they have gathered while out monitoring the Waterfall and Stoddard Fires. Three firefighters will replace the Tusher WFM on Sunday to continue monitoring fire activity on the Waterfall Fire.

**Trail Closures for the Salmon-Challis National Forest** include: **Harbor Lake Trail** (Forest Trail #6144), **Clear Creek Trail** (Forest Trail #6022), **Roaring Trail** (Forest Trail #6021, Crags Trail), **Middle Fork River Trail** (Forest Trail #6044), **Stoddard Lake Trail** (Forest Trail #6140) **Stoddard Trail** (Forest Trail #6169). *For closure maps, fire updates, and photos, please visit: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4485/>*

Today's Wildland Fire Training Topic:

A **fire regime** is the pattern, frequency, and intensity of wildfires that prevail in an area. It is an integral part of forest ecology, and renewal for certain types of ecosystems. If fires are too frequent, plants may be killed before they have matured, or before they have set sufficient seed to ensure population recovery. If fires are too infrequent, unnatural fuel loadings occur within the ecosystem resulting in uncharacteristic high severity burns.

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