



**NEWS  
RELEASE**

Central Idaho Dispatch  
Salmon - Challis National Forest,  
Salmon Field Office, Idaho Falls  
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~~Public and firefighter safety is the highest priority in fighting all wildland fires.~~

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### **Breaks Prescribed Fire Declared A Wildfire**

The Breaks prescribed fire that is burning on the west side of Napoleon Ridge, 2 miles southwest of North Fork, crossed the containment line at about 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and spread eastward toward the Salmon River. This morning three helicopters (two light and one heavy) continued bucket drops on the fire, which is visible on the hillside across the river from Wagonhammer Springs on Highway 93.

The Forest Service has called in additional resources including an additional heavy helicopter and five additional fire crews. They will join the two hotshot crews, one hand crew, two engines and the three helicopters already assigned to the burn. A Type II incident management team has been ordered. The objectives for the team will be to manage the completion of the prescribed burn, as well as, reducing the risk of wildfire spreading to private land.

“We have declared the incident a wildland fire and are concentrating on the hot spots on the eastern side,” said North Fork District Ranger Russ Bacon. “The spots cover about 30 acres and are in terrain that is too steep for ground crews to operate safely, so we’re doing a lot of bucket drops right now.” Fire crews will establish a containment line to the south. No evacuations are expected. Highway 93 is open at this time.

“Fire is a tool that sometimes can be unpredictable, our main priorities with this incident are to keep firefighters safe, prevent fire from spreading to private land and to continue to achieve the resource objectives of the prescribed fire”, said Bacon. “Currently we are meeting all of those.”

Members of the public are cautioned that smoke may be visible for some time in the vicinity of the fire and are asked to use caution when driving through areas where burn crews are working or where smoke is drifting across roadways.