

# Saddle Complex Fire Update

August 27, 2011  
Bitterroot and Salmon-Challis National Forests

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[www.inciweb.org/incident/2496](http://www.inciweb.org/incident/2496)

**Date Started:** 8/18/2011  
**Cause:** Lightning  
**Size:** 22,949 acres (10,754 on SCNF, 11,992 on BNF)  
**Percent Contained:** 0%  
**Resources:** 3 Helicopters;  
13 Engines; 6 Crews

**Total Personnel:** 198  
**Residences:** 67 threatened, 0 destroyed  
**Commercial Property:** 2 threatened; 0 destroyed  
**Outbuildings:** 67 threatened; 0 destroyed  
**Injuries to Date:** 0

## Location:

The Complex was comprised of two fires – the Saddle and Stud Fires – which merged on August 22<sup>nd</sup> into one fire which is burning on the Salmon-Challis and Bitterroot National Forests in Lemhi County, Idaho, and Ravalli County, Montana. Portions of the fire are within the Frank-Church River of No Return Wilderness.

## Overview:

Both sides of the state line experienced another hot and dry day on Friday, yet fire behavior was mild and no significant events occurred.

**MONTANA:** Overall fire behavior has been mild with gradual growth. Rolling material has ignited upslope crown runs for smaller column to form at times. Overall it was a successful day as control lines have been plumbed and are holding. With opportunities for spotting still a threat helicopters have continued bucket work to secure structures.

**IDAHO:** The fire is continuing to grow gradually in all directions. Fire behavior is primarily backing, where the fire moves slowly downhill, with some isolated tree torching.

Firefighter and public safety remains the first priority on this and every fire. Therefore, the area closures on both the Salmon-Challis and Bitterroot National Forests will remain in effect as long as necessary.

## Closures and Restrictions:

**SCNF:** From the junction of Squaw Creek Road #039 and the River Road #030 heading north to the Stateline along Squaw Creek Road and then Squaw Creek. Then following the Stateline West to the #158 trail. Follow #158 trail to Square Top. From Square Top Southeast on the #203 trail to #164 trail. Continuing on the #164 trail to Colson Creek Road #123. South along Colson Creek Road #123 to the River Road#030. Closure is ¼ mile North of River Road between the Colson Creek Road and Squaw Creek Road.

**BNF:** The area immediately south of the Hughes Creek Road #9630 until it meets the eastern edge of section T3S, R20W, Section 2, then running south along the eastern edge of sections 11 and 14 until reaching the Thunder Mountain Trail (#95). The closure remains west of trail #95 until it reaches the Idaho border near T3S, R21W, Section 30. The closure follows the private land boundary south of the Hughes Creek road in T3S, R22W, Section 3 until reaching Chicken Creek Trail (#138) in Section 9. The closure remains just south of the Chicken Creek Trail. The closure continues along the Chicken Creek Trail and junctions with the Razorback Mountain Trail (#106) and continues along this trail until intersecting with Trail #139, then south along #139 until intersecting with Trail # 614. Then south along trail # 614 until reaching the Idaho border near Reynolds Lake in T3S, R23W, Section 25.

For additional information on the closures, contact the **North Fork Ranger District at 208-756-2700** or the **West Fork Ranger District at 406-821-3269**.