



# Salmon-Challis National Forest

## Fire Update

### 30 August 2011



Contact Fire Information: 208-756-5204

The Salmon-Challis National Forest is shifting command on area fires to meet changing needs. The Phoenix National Incident Management Organization (NIMO), which arrived in Salmon on August 24 to assist with long term planning on multiple incidents, took over the management of the Idaho side of the Saddle Complex on Monday, August 29. The Type 2 Great Basin Incident Management Team has been in command of the Salt Fire since the morning of Sunday, August 28. Yesterday's high winds caused the Salt Fire to grow about 1,000 acres, making it 2,635 acres in size, and resulted in the loss of one tractor-trailer. This increased the complexity of the fire and caused managers to assess the additional needs of the fire and its personnel. The Saddle Complex saw little growth despite yesterday's wind event. This prompted fire managers on the Salmon-Challis National Forest to consider better utilizing the NIMO on the higher priority Salt Fire.

The NIMO will spend much of Wednesday transitioning the Saddle Complex back to the control of a Type 3 Incident Commander and will then move to the Incident Command Post for the Salt Fire where they will begin to integrate with the existing Type 2 Team. The NIMO will at that time become the primary command for the Salt Fire, with the Type 2 Team operating as an extension of them.

A team of U. S. Forest Service employees is en route to Salmon to complete a Facilitated Learning Analysis in the wake of the burned tractor-trailer. The purpose of a Facilitated Learning Analysis is to learn from occurrences and share that knowledge with the rest of the wildland fire community. The intention is that firefighters learn to recognize potential signals that could lead to accidents by learning from the experiences of others.

At this time, the Salt Fire is currently making another run through heavy timber; however, it is moving more to the northeast today. Two portable retardant bases have been set up: one in Salmon for helicopters and one in Challis for Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs). The area closure around the Salt Fire has been increased in response to the fire growth.

For more information on area closures and on fires burning on the Salmon-Challis National Forest, visit <http://www.inciweb.org/unit/46/>.