



# Salmon-Challis National Forest

## Fire Update

### 2 September 2011



Contact Fire Information: 208-756-5204

**OVERVIEW:** Lower temperatures, higher relative humidity, and calm winds provided a slight reprieve for firefighters on Thursday. Another warming trend is expected to begin today, bringing above average temperatures back to the area. Thunderstorms are not likely until after the weekend. There were no new fires yesterday. The Velvet Fire, located about 5 miles northeast of the Boundary Creek launch site, has grown to about 1,000 acres. It is being managed for multiple resource objectives, including the return of fire to the ecosystem. One of the crews staged in Salmon for initial attack went to the Black Canyon Fire but the other is still available for new fires.

**BLACK CANYON FIRE:** Total acreage on the fire shows 1,600 acres at this time. This is down a couple hundred acres from previous reports due to better mapping. Crews have been unable to construct line on steep and rugged areas where access is unsafe. Firefighters are determined to attack the fire on safer terms where the fire has burned down to more level ground. The elevation of the area burned varies from 5,400 to 10,000 feet with vegetation including grasses, sagebrush, Douglas fir, subalpine fir and whitebark pine. Adell's Type 2 Incident Management Team assumed command of the fire this morning at 6:00 AM.

**Start Date:** 31 August

**Cause:** Unknown

**SALT FIRE:** On Thursday, Sept. 1, the Salt fire was less active than in previous days, burning 900 more acres. The fire has now burned 8,803 acres. Single-tree and group-tree torching occurred Thursday, with short runs of fire in tree crowns.

Houseman's NIMO team (National Interagency Management Organization) assumed command on Thursday morning. Crews made good progress preparing Forest Road 045 (Ridge Road) to check fire spread east. The south and west flanks of the fire were quiet. A fire line was completed from the southwest corner of the fire to Moyer. There were no big pushes on the north, with fire burning in pockets of dead and down trees. On the east flank, crews and bulldozers cut fire lines. They were able to hold and improve lines thanks in part of favorable weather.

Crews will prepare Road 045 for burnout along the road, if needed to keep the fire west of that road. On Friday, we can expect short crown runs and group torching, with fire spreading around one-half mile, especially along the east flank. The weather coming Saturday will make for a busy weekend, according to fire behavior specialists.

On Friday, structure-protection crews will continue assessing the Williams Lake area so residents and firefighters can be ready in case the fire approaches there.

**Public Meeting:** Members of the Williams Lake community are invited to a public meeting at the Williams Lake Fire House on Saturday, September 3. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. Residents can learn about the Salt fire, about plans for protecting their homes, and about issues to consider if the fire comes to the community. To learn more, contact the Williams Lake Fire Department, or call the Salt Fire at [208-756-8891](tel:208-756-8891) or email [saltfire2011@gmail.com](mailto:saltfire2011@gmail.com).

**Resources:** 7 Helicopters; 16 Crews; 10 Engines; 6 Dozers; 10 Water tenders; 572 Total Personnel

**Start Date:** 25 August

**Cause:** Lightning

**SHIP ISLAND FIRE:** The 68-acre Ship Island Fire is burning about 3.5 miles up Ship Island Creek from the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. While the fire is allowed to play its natural role in the ecosystem, a crew has been divided into separate squads to assist in limiting the fire's impact on the river corridor. One squad will monitor the fire from the Stoddard Lookout; one squad will patrol the Bighorn Crags area; and the third squad will launch from Bernard on Sunday to serve as a point of contact for boaters and also to assess campgrounds.

**Resources:** 1 Crew; 17 Total Personnel

**Start Date:** 25 August

**Cause:** Lightning

**SADDLE COMPLEX:** The Idaho portion of the **Saddle Complex** continues to creep downhill and make short uphill runs. The total acreage is now 26,404 and 12,813 of that is in Idaho. The overall acreage is down slightly as a result of more accurate mapping.

**Resources:** 3 Crew; 72 Total Personnel

**Start Date:** 10 August

**Cause:** Lightning

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

This is an opportunity for residents in all fire-prone areas to make sure their homes are prepared for wildfire. For more information, go to <http://www.firewise.org/>.