



Salmon-Challis National Forest Fire Update Tuesday, September 13, 2011



Contact Fire Information: 208.756.5177

OVERVIEW: The weather forecast for today calls for isolated thunderstorms and generally warmer and drier conditions. Three new fires were reported yesterday on the Salmon-Challis National Forest. The Goldbug Fire, located on Goldbug Ridge, is ½ acre in size. The fire was contained last night, and five firefighters will remain on scene through today. The Hooley Fire is 1/10 acre in size on private ground in the Lost River Ranger District. The Porter Fire is estimated between 25 and 50 acres on the Middle Fork Ranger District. Yesterday, firefighters and a helicopter responded. Today, one crew from the Salt Fire will be redirected to the Porter Fire, and one second crew has been ordered. The fire is located in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness but will be suppressed.

Area closures remain in effect for the following fires: Saddle Complex, Salt, Velvet, Ship Island and Alpine. These closures are being monitored on a daily basis by local fire managers. Residents and recreationalists are urged to check area closures before heading out.

SALT FIRE: On Monday, crews working on the Salt Fire were able to hold the contingency lines that they put in place on the north and west flanks of the fire. The fire crossed over Salt Creek and burned a small 40-acre patch of land on a north facing slope. Total growth on the fire yesterday was only about 100 acres. Today, crew crews will continue to improve the line on the east and north flanks of the fire.

The area closure is still in place; however the Level 2 evacuation has been lowered to a Level 1 evacuation, which means that residents may access their property but must remain on the alert for a potential evacuations should fire conditions change.

Resources: 6 Helicopters; 17 Engines; 2 Dozers; 14 Water Tenders; 6 Crews; 387 Total Personnel.
Start Date: 25 August **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 20,284 acres

SADDLE COMPLEX: Monday, crews worked at mopping up along the Horse Creek Road and will continue that today. They will also burn out an unburned island of fuel at the mouth of Quicksand Bog to eliminate a potential threat to the Gattin Ranch and nearby vicinities. The fire made a run from the west toward Oreana Lookout. Protection measures at the Lookout included a pump with sprinklers which were activated and effective. The fire is still burning actively north of Blue Nose Lookout, in Montana, and the potential remains for another run toward that Lookout.

Total growth on the Saddle Complex yesterday was about 500 acres and about 100 acres of that was in Idaho.

Resources: 3 Crews; 5 Engines; 1 Water Tender; 100 Total Personnel
Start Date: 10 August **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 31,988 acres (Idaho: 16,557)

VELVET FIRE: Structure protection measures are still in place at the Joe Bump Cabin along the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. The fire grew very little on Monday.

Resources: 2 Total Personnel
Start Date: 12 August **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 2,735 acres

SHIP ISLAND FIRE: Fire activity was very moderate on the Ship Island Fire yesterday. Most of the movement was on the southern end of the fire where a few isolated trees torched. Light smoke was observed in the bottom of the Ship Island drainage, about one mile above the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. Overall, conditions were very hazy in the canyon. The fire has grown about 85 acres since the last infrared reading. There was a heavy inversion in place this morning. The River Crew, who are acting as point of contact for boaters, will launch on Thursday. The fire is being managed to return fire to the ecosystem as a natural partner. The Parrot Placer Camp (river right) is still closed.

Resources: 1 Crew; 17 Total Personnel

Start Date: 25 August

Cause: Lightning

Size: 1,975 acres

To learn about how to better prepare your home to withstand a wildfire, go to www.idahofirewise.org. For more information on area closures and on fires burning on the Salmon-Challis National Forest, visit <http://www.inciweb.org/unit/46/>.