



Salmon-Challis National Forest Fire Update Friday, September 16, 2011



Contact Fire Information: 208.756.5177

OVERVIEW: Cooler temperatures and rainfall over much of the area has slowed fire activity considerably. While there was fairly widespread lightning last night, weather stations reported no less than .10 inches of rain, with some reported just over ½ inch.

The Tennesse Fire was called controlled this morning and is expected to be called out today.

Local fire managers are evaluating area closures on a daily basis with hopes of reopening roads and trails. **The area closure around the Salt Fire has been reduced; Panther Creek Road and areas to the west are now opened to the public.** The closures around the Saddle Complex, Ship Island and Alpine, and Velvet Fires are still effective.

SALT FIRE: High winds arrived yesterday afternoon as predicted and resulted in increased fire activity on Salt Ridge. Rain later in the day calmed the fire down. Today crews will continue rehabilitation work while maintaining the fire perimeter. Remote weather stations at the fire site recorded between .4 and .5 inches of rainfall in the past 24 hours. Fire managers will begin releasing additional resources in the coming days.

Resources: 3 Crews; 5 Helicopters; 12 Engines; 1 Dozer; 7 Water Tenders; 272 Total Personnel

Start Date: 25 August **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 20,418 acres

SADDLE COMPLEX: Cloud cover, cooler temperatures and light rain over the fire resulted in minimal fire activity. Short periods of high winds near Oreana resulted in single tree and isolated group torching. There was a slight increase in fire activity on the north side of Tincup Hill, but it was not significant. The area around Gattin Ranch is holding securely.

Resources: 3 Crews; 3 Engines; 88 Total Personnel

Start Date: 18 August **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 32,365 acres (Idaho: 16,709)

SHIP ISLAND FIRE: Fire activity was subdued yesterday thanks to overcast skies. There was slight movement to the west and east, but it did not amount to much total growth of the fire. Winds started early in the day and continued through much of the night. This morning there is thick fog in the Middle Fork canyon. The **Alpine Fire** is still 20 acres.

Resources: 1 Crew; 12 Total Personnel

Start Date: 25 August **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 2,301 acres

VELVET FIRE: Recent fire activity on the Velvet Fire has been in the Muskeg Creek drainage. Firefighters will be retrieving the pump and hose equipment from the Joe Bump Cabin thanks to decreased threat by the fire.

Start Date: 12 August **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 2,850 acres

PORTER FIRE: The Porter Fire was called controlled last night and crews will be demobilizing today. A few firefighters will remain on the fire into tomorrow.

Resources: 3 Crews; 1 Engine; 95 Total Personnel

Start Date: 12 September **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 65 acres

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