



Salmon-Challis National Forest Fire Update Wednesday, September 21, 2011



Contact Fire Information: 208.756.5177

OVERVIEW: The weather forecast is for clear, warmer weather with light winds. The next chance for moisture could come early next week.

- The current area closure around the Salt Fire includes the area east of Panther Creek, west of the Forest boundary, south of Williams Creek/Deep Creek Roads, and north of the Lemhi-Custer County line.
- The Lemhi County Sheriff has removed the Stage 1 evacuation alert for the Panther Creek drainage.
- The closure area around the Velvet Fire was lifted on Monday.
- The area closures around the Saddle Complex and Ship Island Fire remain in effect.
- Updated fire closure maps are posted on InciWeb.

SALT FIRE: Fire activity on Tuesday consisted of minimal smoldering and creeping with low flames and light smoke. Remaining crews will continue to monitor fire perimeter and be available to respond to protect any values at risk if necessary.

Anyone traveling on roads in the fire area should be cautioned to drive slowly. Large equipment will also be traveling those roads during fire suppression and rehabilitation activities. Such vehicles need more room to maneuver corners and require additional distance to stop.

Resources: 3 Crews; 2 Helicopters; 7 Engines; 4 Water Tenders; 199 Total Personnel
Start Date: 25 August **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 20,536 acres

SADDLE COMPLEX: Information from the most recent infrared flight showed reduction in areas of heat along the south side of the fire supporting the decision to begin removing structure protection equipment from around Oreana Lookout. Protection is still in place for Gattin Ranch structures and Forest Service administrative sites. Crews continue to remove hazard trees along Horse Creek Road.

Resources: 2 Crews; 60 Total Personnel
Start Date: 18 August **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 32,385 acres (Idaho: 16,709)

SHIP ISLAND FIRE: In response to minimal fire activity, the area closure around the Ship Island and Alpine fires was reduced on Monday. Forest Trail #030 to Ship Island Lake is **closed**. Parrot Placer Camp on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River also remains **closed**. Airplane, Shoban, and Sheepeater Lakes, and Waterfall Creek and Middle Fork Trails are all **open**. The **Alpine Fire** did not increase in size and remains at 20 acres.

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

VELVET FIRE: Even though the fire closure has been lifted, use caution when traveling within any recent burn area. Standing dead trees that have had fire smoldering in the roots can fall at any time without warning with even a slight breeze.

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