



Salmon-Challis National Forest

Fire Update

Thursday, 29 September 2011



Contact Fire Information: 208.756.5177

OVERVIEW: The fires currently burning on the Salmon-Challis National Forest are expected to remain active into the weekend while warm and dry conditions persist. By Saturday, a shift will occur and showers and thunderstorms will become likely through Monday. According to the National Weather Service, an impending pattern change towards wet and cool fall-like conditions is expected during the middle to latter half of next week.

SALT FIRE: The fire continues to be most active near Swan Peak, and in the Woodtick and Salt Creek drainages. The acreage has increased by about 250 acres over the past two days. It is still 20% contained. Firefighters continue to monitor the fire perimeter and rehabilitate firelines while remaining prepared to respond to values at risk as appropriate. Fire activity mainly consists of isolated and group tree torching.

On Tuesday, a large amount of smoke was visible through the afternoon and into the evening; however, the active burning was coming from the interior of the fire. The fire had previously burned through the undergrowth but had not consumed the standing trees. It was able to reach the tree tops on Tuesday where it began a crown-run that continued until the fire reached a more severely burned stand and ran out of fuel.

Please use caution and drive slowly on open roads. Remember that fire engines are big, travel slower, and take a longer distance to stop, especially on narrow gravel roads. The area closure is expected to remain in place at least through the end of September.

Resources: 6 Engines; 32 Total Personnel

Start Date: 25 August

Cause: Lightning

Size: 21,770 acres

SADDLE COMPLEX: The area closure for the Saddle Complex has been lifted on both the Idaho and Montana sides of the state line. However, the following **roads will remain closed** in Idaho: road #044 from the junction with road #5669 (Beaver Creek Road in Montana) to the north, towards the Reynolds Lake Trailhead; road #123 from its junction with road #064 (Corn Lake) to its junction with road #038 (Spring Creek); and the road to Blue Nose Lookout from the junction with road #038 (Spring Creek).

The fire remains active in the Little Horse Creek drainage, near Oreana Lookout, in the Cathedral Rock area, and to the north of Blue Nose Lookout. One crew is still working on the fire, mainly monitoring the fire's progress and continuing rehabilitation activities. The expectation is that the fire will continue to spread gradually but not impact any values at risk, such as private land or Forest Service facilities.

Resources: 1 Crew; 10 Total Personnel

Start Date: 18 August

Cause: Lightning

Size: 32,451 acres (Idaho: 16,732)

SHIP ISLAND FIRE: The fire is now about ½ mile above Middle Fork River and about ¼ mile from Ship Island Lake. Parrot Placer Camp will remain closed through the boating season. The area closure also remains in effect. The Alpine Fire is still at 20 acres.

Start Date: 25 August

Cause: Lightning

Size: 2,442 acres

VELVET FIRE: The fire is burning about 5 miles northeast of Boundary Creek launch site. Minimal fire activity has been observed over the past several days.

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.