



Salmon-Challis National Forest

Fire Update

Saturday, 1 October 2011



Contact Fire Information: 208.756.5177

***** RED FLAG WARNING *****

OVERVIEW: A Red Flag Warning – an advisory issued for weather conditions that can lead to large fire growth – has been issued for today due to the low humidity and gusty winds predicted ahead of the incoming cold front. Winds may reach gusts of up to 35 miles per hour near ridge tops. The shift is expected to bring a chance for showers and thunderstorms. According to the National Weather Service, an impending pattern change toward wet and cool fall-like conditions is expected during the middle to latter half of next week.

SALT FIRE: On Thursday afternoon, a spot fire was discovered about one mile east of Swan Peak and grew to about 60 acres. Yesterday, the spot again became active and the fire pushed to the north and northeast, into Little Deep Creek. Accurate mapping will take place later today, once the inversion lifts off the fire. Growth is estimated at between 800 and 1,000 acres.

Today firefighters will complete prep work along the main Ridge Road to prepare for back firing along the road if fire activity necessitates such action. A dozer has been ordered. Helicopters will be used to drop water on the fire this afternoon. Fire managers expect that the fire will reach the burn scar from the 1985 Lake Mountain Fire where fire behavior will be moderated by the reduced fuels available.

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. Fire managers will lift the area closure once significant wet weather arrives and fire behavior is no longer expected to impact roadways.

Resources: 6 Engines; 32 Total Personnel

Start Date: 25 August **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 22,082 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 #065 (Horse Creek) to the north to 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 Horse Creek Campground remains **closed**.

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:** 32,636 acres (Idaho: 16,834)

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:** 2,447 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.