



Salmon-Challis National Forest

Fire Update

Monday, 3 October 2011



Contact Fire Information: 208.756.5177

OVERVIEW: According to the National Weather Service, a significant pattern change toward wet and cool fall-like conditions is expected to arrive tomorrow. The front is predicted to be strong enough to bring a season-ending weather event to the area. Residents should still expect to see smoke in fire areas in the coming weeks, as they will likely continue to smolder. Fire managers are evaluating all closures on a daily basis and will lift them as soon as the conditions are safe enough to do so.

The **Sawmill Fire** was reported at 4:30 yesterday afternoon. It has burned approximately 30 acres and is 1 mile below the Stormy Peak Lookout. The fire is lightning-caused. Helicopters began dropping water on it yesterday afternoon and continued that work today. Two airtankers also contributed to the suppression efforts. One handcrew has been ordered. The fire has grown only a few acres since this morning. The primary objective is protecting the Stormy Peak Lookout.

SALT FIRE: Yesterday afternoon the Salt Fire put up a significant amount of smoke; however, fire growth was minimal. The fire activity was primarily isolated in an unburned island of timber within the existing fire perimeter. The current low pressure system caused the smoke to drop down into the valley, rather than lifting up and creating a column.

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: 7 Engines; 35 Total Personnel

Start Date: 25 August **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 24,501 acres

SHIP ISLAND FIRE: The Ship Island Fire has grown about 250 acres since it was last mapped. It has come within a few hundred yards of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. The area closure remains in effect and the Parrot Placer Camp will be closed for the rest of the river season. The **Alpine Fire**, which is being managed with the Ship Island Fire, is still at 20 acres.

Start Date: 25 August **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 2,820 acres

SADDLE COMPLEX: The following **roads 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**.

Minimal activity has been observed on the fire over the past few days. Personnel on scene are continuing to monitor the fire and conduct 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:** 32,769 acres (Idaho: 16,834)

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

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.