



Salmon-Challis National Forest

Halstead Fire Update

August 18, 2012 - 0900



Fire Information: 208-774-0011 (new number)

Start Date: July 27, 2012

Current Size: 88,371 acres

Location: Approx. 18 miles northwest of Stanley, Idaho

Jurisdiction: USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region, Salmon-Challis National Forest

Resources on the fire: 398 personnel, including 6 hand crews, 24 engines, 8 helicopters

Cause: Lightning

Containment: 3%



Community Meeting: A meeting is planned at the Challis Middle School Auditorium. 7:00pm, Monday August 20.

Forecast: A weak west to northwest winds under a ridge of high pressure will continue today. This will maintain warm weather and very low daytime humidity. A weak trough of low pressure should bring thunderstorms on Sunday. The temperature will be in the 80s with humidity around 10 percent. The Haines Index will be a 5.

Remarks: Work on the Bench Fire continued with 70 percent containment. On the north flank of the Halstead Fire, the fire moved towards Bernard Creek in the Vanity Lakes area. There was no growth near Trail Creek. On the southeast perimeter, the fire is above Kelly Creek and in the northeast part of the 2006 Potato Mountain fire. The fire burned about 700 acres west of Basin Butte and is at the head of east Valley Creek. A group of firefighters worked the swing shift last night in the Asher Creek area. They caught and suppressed several spot fires in that area in an attempt to hold the fire in its existing burned area.

Homeowner Preparedness: For suggestions on how to prepare around your home for wildfires visit www.firewise.org

Closures: A large area around the Halstead and the Bench Fire remains closed. For information on the closure area visit www.fs.usda.gov/sawtooth and www.fs.usda.gov/scnf. Know before you go. For a high resolution map of the closure area go to the Flickr site www.flickr.com/salmonchallisnf

The following CAMPGROUNDS are closed due to the fire closure: Beaver Creek, Lola Creek, Marsh Creek Transfer, O'Brein, Josephus Lake, Bench, Banner, Park City, Elk Creek, Sheep Trail, Trap Creek, Vader Creek, Thatcher Creek, and campgrounds along the Salmon River from Lower Stanley to Thompson Creek.

Air Quality: Smoke was thick overnight in many of the valleys surrounding the local fires resulting in poor air qualities in many of the populated areas. The light winds from the south kept the town of Stanley in good air quality. For more information on smoke, visit <http://airquality.deq.idaho.gov/>

**Hwy 21 and Hwy 75 remain open within the closure area.
The Boundary Creek Road (FS 579) to the Middle Fork remains open.**

Highway 21: A pilot car is operating from 7:00am-9:00pm on Banner Summit as a result of fire activity in the area of the Bench Fire.

For more information follow us on Twitter @scnf_fire_info
<http://inciweb.org/incident/3062/> www.flickr.com/salmonchallisnf