



United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Salmon - Challis National Forest
1206 South Challis St.
Salmon, Idaho 83467

Papoose Fire Public Information Office
Salmon-Cobalt District Ranger Station
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August 2, 2013

Wildfire Update: Papoose Fire

Date of Detection: July 8, 2013. **Cause:** Lightning. **Size:** 9,459 acres.

Location: Papoose Creek, North-Fork Ranger District, about 40 air miles west of Salmon, ID

Managing Agency: U.S. Forest Service, Salmon-Challis National Forest

The Papoose Fire showed little activity on Friday after heavy thunderstorms swept across the Salmon-Challis National Forest on Thursday. Hail, wind gusts up to 60 m.p.h. and an inch of rain was recorded in some areas, causing mudslides and temporary forest road blockages. Forest road maintenance crews today cleared debris blocking Salmon River Road below Colson Creek. Visitors to the forest are asked to use extreme caution while driving on Salmon River Road and all forest roads, as loose soil and rolling debris present hazards to motorists and pedestrians.

The Papoose Fire is a wilderness fire, creeping through grass, brush and small stands of timber in steep, rocky, inaccessible terrain above the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. Flames have burned to the river in many places. Firefighters are patrolling river campsites, removing ground fuels around camps and heritage sites, including petroglyph sites. Middle Fork Boaters are required to check-in with forest personnel for camp and fire information at the Flying B Ranch. Please be flexible regarding space-sharing and potential campsite reassignments. Small groups of firefighters are developing strategies to protect structures from the mouth of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River to Arctic Creek Lodge on the Salmon River, in the event the fire reaches them. An Emergency Area Closure is in effect for the Papoose Fire Area. The Closure Announcement and map can be viewed at www.inciweb.org/incident/article/3510/19522/. Previous trail closures have been rescinded and incorporated into the area closure, and Waterfall Trail and South Fork Waterfall Trail also remain closed.

Firefighters assigned to the Papoose Fire initial attacked the lightning-sparked Jackass Fire on Friday, about 40 miles southwest of Salmon. The fire is now contained. The 80-acre Falls Fire near May is staffed by a helicopter and two hand-crews. They report good progress. The 16,318-acre Gold Pan Fire on the Bitterroot N.F. is burning about 35 miles northwest of the town of North Fork. The 19,960-acre Lodgepole Fire is burning about ten miles west of Challis. Emergency Area Closures are in effect for both the Gold Pan and Lodgepole Fires. Please visit www.inciweb.org for more information.