



United States  
Department of Agriculture

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

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Papoose Fire Public Information Office  
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August 10, 2013

**Wildfire Update: Papoose Fire**

**Date of Detection:** July 8, 2013. **Cause:** Lightning. **Size:** 9,504 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

Activity on the Papoose Fire on Saturday was minimal, with flames in the area of Big Hill creeping through grass, brush and small stands of timber. The fire is burning in steep, rocky, inaccessible terrain above the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. A scheduled incident command transition occurred yesterday. Type 3 Incident Commander Mike Smith took over for Type 3 Incident Commander Melissa Sartor at 6 pm on Friday. Isolated thunderstorms swept across the Salmon-Challis National Forest Saturday, with no measurable rain in the Papoose Fire Area. A red flag warning is in effect until 9 pm for thunderstorms and gusty winds. Firefighters from Colorado's White River Fire Module patrolled the river corridor by boat today, seeking opportunities to remove ground fuels around camps and heritage sites, including pictographs. Fire managers 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 remains in effect for the Papoose Fire Area, viewable at [www.inciweb.org/incident/article/3510/19522/](http://www.inciweb.org/incident/article/3510/19522/). Previous trail closures were incorporated into the area closure, and Waterfall Trail and South Fork Waterfall Trail also remain closed.

The one-tenth acre lightning-started State Fire was spotted today about 8 miles northwest of Gibbonsville and initial attacked by two firefighters. The one-tenth acre lightning-started Square Fire was spotted today about 30 miles west of North Fork and put in monitor status. The two-acre lightning-started Carmen Fire was initial attacked today by 18 firefighters, assisted by three helicopters. The one-tenth acre Elkhorn Fire was discovered Monday about 40 miles northwest of Stanley. The fire is unstaffed and in monitor status. The 93-acre Falls Fire near May is controlled, unstaffed and in monitor status. Smoke from the 17,116-acre Gold Pan Fire on the Bitterroot N.F. is drifting into the towns of North Fork and Salmon. The 21,800-acre Lodgepole Fire is burning about eight miles west of Challis. Emergency Area Closures are in effect for both the Gold Pan and Lodgepole Fires, with announcements and maps posted at [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org).