



Northern Idaho Wildfire Update August 24, 2015



Contact: Interagency Fire Information Line (208) 765-7383

National fire information website: www.inciweb.nwcg.gov

Closure details: www.fs.usda.gov/idfs

Restriction information: <http://idahofireinfo.blogspot.com/> or <http://firerestrictions.us/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USFSIPNF>

Fire Danger Rating: **EXTREME** National Wildfire Preparedness is at the Highest Level (PL 5) Fires will start easily, spread rapidly, quickly increase in intensity and can be very difficult to control.

- **Stage II Fire Restrictions in effect within Grangeville & Coeur d'Alene Dispatch Restriction Areas***
- **Weather: Red Flag Warning in effect until 9pm PDT Tuesday for central and northeast Washington. Warm, dry and smoky conditions will continue this week.**

Fires across north Idaho have the potential to burn actively today, especially with higher winds on the ridges. There is a small chance of dry thunderstorms during late Monday night and into Tuesday morning. Max temperatures will be 83-88 in the valleys, and 75-85 in the mountains. Humidity levels will be on the rise with minimum humidity between 10-20 percent.

Valley/lower slope and upslope/upvalley winds will be 2 to 5 mph in the morning becoming south 6 to 12 mph in the afternoon. Local gusts to 15 mph. Ridges/upper slope winds will be southeast 3 to 5 mph in the morning becoming southwest 6 to 10 mph in the afternoon. Haines index 4-5.

- **Fire Weather Watch** in effect today for most of the northern Idaho Panhandle.
- **Air Quality Alert** in effect. Air quality in many areas may deteriorate from unhealthy to hazardous levels. <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/air-quality/monitoring/daily-reports-and-forecasts.aspx>

Incident Summary: Listing of active fires (table attached). For additional information and maps visit: www.inciweb.nwcg.gov

- **Parker Ridge Fire 6,222 acres, 27% containment.** Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) (Weeks) 7/29 lightning start. Location is approximately 20 miles NW of Bonners Ferry. There was a minor increase in acreage yesterday as the fire backed down to a tributary of Long Canyon Ck.. Fire crews made good progress on containment efforts by extinguishing hot spots in Long Canyon. Pocket of fuel within the fire perimeter continue to burn out and put up smoke. Today, fire crews will focus on expanding containment. Felling will continue along the Westside Road and aircraft will continue with reconnaissance and water drops. **The Stage I voluntary evacuations on the Westside Road have been reduced to Stage I Alert.** Closures remain in effect. Personnel: 87. Fire information contact : 208-267-6773 Email: parkerridgefireinfo@gmail.com
- **Clark Fork Complex** is located in Northern Idaho near Clark Fork and includes Scotchman Peak, Whitetail, Marten Fires (east of Lake Pend Oreille in the Idaho Panhandle National Forest) plus six fires in the Kootenai NF in Montana. Zero % containment. Type 2 IMT (Hutton). Smokejumpers came in to assist on several locations

across the complex on Saturday. Closures are in effect Personnel on fire: 210. Fire information:406-847-9974 or 406-827-0738. clarkfork2015@gmail.com **A community meeting is planned for Tuesday, August 25 at 6:00 pm at the Clark Fork School Gym.**

- **Scotchman Peak Fire: 2,876 acres.** Started 8/13, 4 mi NE of Clark Fork, N of Hwy 200. Scotchman Peak Fire crews continued their progress along the toe of the slope south of the fire and expect to finish a contingency line along Forest roads today.
- **Whitetail Fire: 739 acres** Started 8/14 located south of Hwy 200 and 9 mi S of Clark Fork, Eight miles SW of Heron, Montana. Yesterday, firefighters extended the line around the northeast corner to reduce fire spread out of the Dr Ck drainage. **Today a Stage I evacuation preparation notice goes into effect for the area south of the Clark Fork River between the state line and Johnson Creek on the Idaho side.**
- **Marten Fire: 5 acres** Started 8/19 to the west of the Whitetail Fire. Firefighters are working to reduce potential for the fire to move eastward toward the Whitetail Fire and are working toward 100% perimeter control by the end of Monday.

- **Marble Creek Fire 1,437 acres, 5 % contained.** 8/11 lightning start. Type 3 IMT (Mandel) Approximately 30 mi. east of St. Marie's. The fire is not threatening structures but is burning near commercial timber lands. Today, engine crews will continue to work building and re-enforcing control lines. Fire personnel: 59. Closures are in effect. Community meeting planned for 4:30 on Tuesday at the St. Joe Lodge.

- **Tower Fire** (Kaniksu Complex includes areas in Washington and Idaho **total 11,159 acres, 5% containment across complex.** Includes Baldy, Greece Creek, Onata Creek and Tower) ICT (Kurth) **Tower Fire is 10,238 acres on the Idaho Panhandle NF and is all within Washington state.** The fire started in Colville NF and is visible from Priest Lake. Area Command is in place for fires in the Colville National Forest (NF). Colville NF is managing the fire with guidance from Idaho Panhandle NF fire management. Yesterday, the fire was active with groups of trees torching with uphill runs, particularly above Browns Lake and some spotting. The fire was also active on the southwest corner near Goose C, on the ridge near Pyramid Pass. Today, fire crews will construct fire line north to Brown's Lake with Army crews helping to hold the line while other crews work to keep the spot fire from crossing the 312 road. If conditions are favorable, some burnout is planned along the road and along the eastern side of the fire. Closures and evacuations are in effect. Fire Information is 907-750-1639. towerfireinfo@gmail.com

- **Grizzly Complex: 8,333 acres, zero % containment across complex, Type 2 IMT (Fry)** Started Aug 10 with 16 lightning-caused fires. Located between Enaville and Murray Idaho; north of I-90; north and east of the North Fork of the Coeur d' Alene River drainage. Several fires have burned together and are being tracked as follow **Lower Flat Fire** (3114 acres) encompasses Upper Stoney, Lower Stoney, North Suburban, South Suburban and East Suburban; **North Grizzly Fire** (2253 acres) encompasses Grizzly Ridge; and **South Bobtail** (2791) encompasses **Bobtail Fire**; The **Downey Fire** remains separate and contained at 9 acres. Four new fire starts resulted from a lightning storm on 8/21, including: Jack Waite (1 acre), White Rock Ck (.2 ac), Grassy Mtn 20 ac) and East Fork (20 acres). Yesterday, fire crews provided initial attack to suppress two fires north of the East Fork of Eagle Creek. The existing fires were monitored and actions were taken to provide structure protection throughout the fire area. Today, fire crews will

provide initial attack for any new fire starts, strengthen line in the West Fork of Eagle Creek, monitor existing fires and continue to provide structure protection. **Public meeting planned for Monday, August 24 6:30 at the Prichard-Murray Fire Department.**

- **Snow Peak Complex:** 270 acres, 0% containment. ICT3 (Juvan), include the following fires: Pretty, Ruby Point, Basin Creek, Trail 55, Caribou, Lightning Ridge, Chicadee, Game, Pole Creek, My Ruby, and Salt Pork. Pretty Fire was active the last two days, increasing to 130 acres. Due to terrain, limited resources and no immediate threats to life and structures, the Snow Peak Complex does not have firefighters on the ground. Firefighter resources are focused on higher priority fires where lives, structures and valuable resources are threatened. Snow Peak, Granite Peak, Ruby Point, and Yankee Peak areas were closed Saturday.
- **Not Creative Fire 150 acres,** 100% contained, 8/13 start, a Type IV IMT on the local Ranger District is managing the fire. Location: ID, four miles north of Rose Lake on the south side of I-90. Fire Information Facebook: Shoshone County Fire Prevention Coop <http://tinyurl.com/ppx3uhd>.
- **Big Lost Fire 940 acres, 100 %** containment IMT 3 (Svancara). 8/13 lightning start. E of Potlatch near Hwy 6, ten miles south of Emida, 3 miles N/NE of Harvard, Latah County. Personnel on fire: 160. Firefighters have successfully built containment line around the entire perimeter. Anticipate transition back to Ranger District by Thursday. Some closures remain in effect.

Additional Information:

- Residents in most counties throughout north Idaho can receive evacuation notices by text message by registering with a service called "Nixle." To register, text your ZIP CODE to 888777 for mobile alerts. This is a free citizen voice and text alert notification service.
- **Closures:** For details: Idaho Panhandle National Forest's (IPNF) web: www.fs.usda.gov/IPNF.

***Definitions: Level 1 Alert (Get Ready)** Residents should be ready, made aware of the increased risk and are asked to monitor emergency services. Residents should prepare and if needed, take early precautionary movement to relocate, especially those with special needs, pets, livestock or those needing transportation assistance.

Level 2 Voluntary Evacuation (Get Set) Residents should be prepared to leave at a moment's notice. Residents should monitor emergency services. A significant danger exists. It is suggested that you voluntarily relocate to a shelter or with family/friends. Be ready to evacuate immediately, especially those with special needs, pets, livestock or those needing transportation assistance.

The public is prohibited to go into or be upon these areas, roads and trails.

- **Priest Lake RD - Tower Fire and Upper Priest Fire:** Road 1013 (Upper Priest), Road 310 (Gleason Mtn), Road 333 (Goose Cr & Blonc Cr); Closed at State line, Road 659 (Squaw Valley), Road 305 (Kings Road) Road 1142 (Butch Creek Rd)
 - **Tower Fire Evacuation Notice** was implemented August 19, Pend Oreille County Sheriff Department **Bear Paw vicinity: Level 1* (Get Ready)**
 - **Tower Fire : An area closure has been established for the area contained within the following boundaries: north of Bear Paw Road and Forest Road 305, west of HWY 57, south of Dickensheet and Forest Road 310, and east of the Idaho**

- Panhandle NF/Colville NF boundary between Hungry Mountain and the junction of Forest Roads 305 and 306.**
- Bonner County Sheriff Department **Big Meadow and vicinity: Level 2* (Get Set)** Residents should be prepared to leave at a moment's notice.
 - August 20, Bonner County issued an **Evacuation Level 1* for: Highway 57 Corridor North (of Dickensheet Rd) Highway 57 Corridor South (of Dickensheet Rd)** Note: This Level 1 notice is being issued because fire fighters are concerned about the fact that Hwy 57 is the ONLY logical escape route south from the Priest Lake Community. It is NOT because of imminent fire danger to the area.
 - A portion of the Newport Ranger District of the Colville National Forest is closed.
- **Bonnors Ferry Ranger District (RD), IPNF due to Parker Ridge Fire:** Parker Creek Trail #14, Long Canyon Trail #16 and Parker Ridge Trail #221 and the Fisher Peak Trail. The Pacific Trail has been closed east and west of the fire.
 - **Sandpoint and Coeur d'Alene River RDs, IPNF - Clark Fork Complex (Scotchman Peak and Whitetail Fires):** Trails in the Scotchman Peak area. Portions of T56N-R3E and T57N-R3E: Scotchman Peak Trail #65, Goat Mountain #135, Regal #556, Morris #132, East Fork System #1184, 563, 1030, or 212. And in the Whitetail area: Forest Roads #430, #332, #332A, #203 (Dry Creek), #203A, #203B, #203E, and #1533; Forest Trails #20 (Coeur d'Alene River NRT), 52 (Alden Creek), #448 (Deer Creek), #77, #122. There are also large area closures generally from Buckskin Saddle southeast to Bluff Creek, and Delyle Ridge south to Cathedral Peak.
 - **Coeur d'Alene River RD - Bennett Peak Fire:** Little Guard Rd #602 and Shoshone Ridge #81. **Grizzly Mountain Fire:** Forest Roads # 260, #959, #993, #994, #1568 and Forest Trails #807 (Indian Creek) and 807A (Indian Creek). **Solitaire Creek Fire:** T52N, R1W, S.3,4,5,8,9,10 and T53N, R1W S. 32,33,34. Trails 1525 Solitaire Creek 4WD and Sob Creek 4WD
 - Coeur d'Alene District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) - **Crater Fire:** Crater Lake and Widow Mountain Areas, BLM lands in T43N, R4 E.
 - **St. Joe RD– Crater Fire** - Areas in T42N- R4E, T43N-R4E, T43N-R3E, T44N–R3E. **Marble Creek Fire Closure Area** Jct of 396 (Boulder Creek) Rd and 321 (Marble Creek) Rd, then SE on 396 Rd to its jct with 396A Rd, then S on 396A Rd to end point, the boundary follows S to jct of 216 (Homestead) Rd and 1936 (Daveggio Creek) Rd, then on 216 (Homestead) Rd to its intersection with 321 (Marble Creek) Road, then N on 321 (Marble Creek Road) to its jct with 396 (Boulder Creek) Road, the point of beginning.
 - **St. Joe RD-Snow Peak Complex:** This closure area encompasses a large portion of the St. Joe Ranger District bordering the Nez Perce Clearwater NF. The closure includes the Snow Peak area, Granite Peak area, Ruby Point area and the Yankee Peak area. Please see map for specific closure boundaries.

Stage II Fire Restrictions: The following acts are prohibited until further notice:

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a designated smoking site or while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.
3. Operating motorized vehicles off designated roads and trails in accordance with existing travel management plans for non-commercial purposes including ATVs, UTVs, and pickups.
4. The following acts are prohibited from 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. A patrol is required for one hour following cessation of all work as described in **a, b, and c** below:
 - a. Operating a chainsaw or other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine for felling, bucking, skidding, processing, road building, woodcutting or any other off-road activity during industrial operations.
 - b. Blasting, welding, or other activities that generate flame or flammable material.
 - c. Using an explosive

***Private landowners within city boundaries should consult their local Fire Department for current restrictions in their community.**

Incident Name	Location	Current Size	Protection Agency	Status
East Fork	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	20 acres	IPNF	Start 8/22: IMT2 (Fry) Grizzly Complex
Grassy Mountain	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	20 acres	IPNF	Start 8/22: IMT2 (Fry) Grizzly Complex
Fan Creek	NZ – Bonners Ferry	0.1 acre	IPNF	Start 8/22:
Deception	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	1 acre	IPNF	Start 8/22: (McClintick) Contained 8/23
Picnic	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	0.3 acre .3 acres	IPNF	Start 8/22: (Moore) Contained 8/23
White Rock Creek	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	2 acres	IPNF	Start 8/22: IMT2 (Fry) Grizzly Complex
Jack Waite	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	1 acre	IPNF	Start 8/22: IMT2 (Fry) Grizzly Complex
Steep Creek	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	6 acre	IPNF	Start 8/22:
Aimes	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	1 acre	IPNF	Start 8/22: (Davis)
Stony Creek	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	0.5	IPNF	Start 8/21:
Shirttail	CZ – State - Cataldo	0.1	IDL	Start 8/21: ICT 5
Skitwish Peak	CZ-Coeur d’Alene River	0.25	IPNF	Start 8/21:ICT 5 (Johnson) burning old snag, heavy ground fuel controlled 8/23
Monument	CZ – Coeur d’Alene	20	IPNF	Start 8/21: (Feltman) Radio repeater site potentially threatened
Pretty	SZ – St. Joe	~130 acres	IPNF	Start 8/21: (Juvan) difficult access Snow Peak Complex (270 acres)
Marten Creek	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	5 acres	IPNF	Start 8/19: IMT Type 2 (Hutton) Clark Fork Complex, west of Whitetail Fire
Salt Pork	SZ-St. Joe	0.1 acre	IPNF	Start 8/17: Snow Peak Complex (270 acres)
My Ruby	SZ-St. Joe	0.5 acre	IPNF	Start 8/17: Snow Peak Complex (270 acres)
Crater	SZ –St. Joe: BLM land	320 acres	IPNF	Start 8/15:
Pole Creek	SZ – St. Joe	0.1 acre	IPNF	Start 8/14: Snow Peak Complex (270 acres)
Game	SZ – St. Joe	2 acres	IPNF	Start 8/14: Snow Peak Complex(270 acres)
Basin Creek	SZ – St. Joe	36 acres	IPNF	Start 8/14: Snow Peak Complex(270 acres)
Solitaire Creek	CZ- Coeur d’Alene River	30 acre	IPNF	Start 8/14:blocked trail 1525, IC Type 4 (Feltmann) area closure, fire is lined, edges secure, 8/19 burned out green finger
Upper Priest	NZ – Priest Lake	70 acres	IPNF	Start 8/14: area closures, monitored (S. Clemenson)8/19active after several calm days

Whitetail Peak	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	739 acres	IPNF	Start 8/14: Clark Fork Complex IMT Type 2 (Hutton) trail closures at Jordan Camp.
Scotchman Peak	NZ-Sandpoint	2,876 acres	IPNF	Start 8/13: Clark Fork Complex closure of trail systems Type 2 IMT (Hutton)
Not Creative	CZ-State-Cataldo	150 acres	IPNF	Start 8/13: 100% containment, Type 4 ICT on Ranger District
Benewah Creek	SZ-State-West St. Joe	34 acre	IDL	Start 8/13:ICT 4, (Schiermeister) contained, patrol status
Big Lost	SZ-State-Ponderosa	940 acres	IDL	Start 8/13: 100% contained. Type 4 IMT on Ranger District
South Bobtail	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	2,791 acres	IPNF	Start 8/13: Type 3 IMT (Day) and Bobtail Fire; Grizzly Complex (6,865)
Chicadee	SZ- St. Joe	1.5 acres	IPNF	Start 8/13: Snow Peak Complex (270 acres)
East Suburban	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	2,664 acres (Lower Flat)	IPNF	Start 8/13: Lower Flat Fire, Grizzly Complex (6,865)
Bennett Peak	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	3 acres	IPNF	Start 8/12: contained, monitor
Caribou Creek	SZ – St. Joe	270 acres (Snow Peak)	IPNF	Start 8/12: Snow Peak Complex (270 acres)
North Grizzly	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	2,253acres (Grizzly Ridge)	IPNF	Start 8/12: Grizzly Ridge, part of Grizzly Complex (6,865)
Downey	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	9 acres	IPNF	Start 8/12: Downey contained; part of Grizzly Complex (6865)
Lower Flat	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	3,114 acres (Lower Flat)	IPNF	Start 8/12 Grizzly Complex (6865 acres)
Lightning Ridge	SZ – St. Joe	7 acres	IPNF	Start 8/12: Snow Peak Complex
Trail 55	SZ - St. Joe /state lands	0.3 acre	IPNF	Start 8/12: Snow Peak Complex, scratch line in, low spread potential
Tower	Colville NF NZ Idaho Panhandle	10,238 acres	CNF	Start 8/11: Fire is in Washington5% contained
Ruby Point	SZ – St. Joe	78 acres	IPNF	Start 8/11: Snow Peak Complex
North Suburban	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	2,664 acres (Lower Flat)	IPNF	Start 8/11: part of Lower Flat, Grizzly Complex (6,865)
South Suburban	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	2,664 acres (Lower Flat)	IPNF	Start 8/11 part of Lower Flat, Grizzly Complex (6,865)
Upper Stoney	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	2,664 (Lower Flat)	IPNF	Start 8/11 part of Lower Flat, Grizzly Complex (6,865)
Lower Stoney	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	2,664 (Lower Flat)	IPNF	Start 8/11: part of Lower Flat, Part of Grizzly Complex (6,865)
Falls Ridge	SZ–State–West St. Joe	0.9 acre	IPNF	Start 8/11:contained, patrol status
Marble Creek	SZ - St. Joe	1,437 acres	IPNF	Start 8/11: IC Type 3 (Mandel) 5% contained anchor established
Pond Peak	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	1 acre	IPNF	Start 8/11: contained
Murray Peak	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	5 acres	IPNF	Start 8/11: contained, continue mop-up 8/19 some heat bottom and left flank
Slaughter House	SZ – State – West St. Joe	47 acres	IDL	Monday, August 24 2015 Page: 7 Start 8/10: contained, patrolled
3 Sisters	NZ-Pend Oreille	228 acres	IDL	Start 8/4: contained

Parker Ridge	NZ – Bonners Ferry	6,197 acres	IPNF	Start 7/29: IMT3(Weeks) structure protection, closures in effect , 27% contained
Hobo	SZ- St. Joe	45 acres	IPNF	Start 7/23: contained/ monitored
Elevator	SZ-St. Joe	25 acres	IPNF	Start 7/22; contained/ monitored
Cape Horn	NZ-Pend Oreille	1,326 acres	IDL	Start 7/5: contained /mop-up, patrol cause under investigation

IPNF: Idaho Panhandle National Forests

IPNF NZ: Idaho Panhandle National Forests North Zone (U.S. Forest Service) IPNF CZ: Idaho Panhandle National Forests Central Zone (U.S. Forest Service)

IPNF SZ: Idaho Panhandle National Forests South Zone (U.S. Forest Service) IDL: Idaho Department of Lands (State)

ICT: Incident Command Type

IMT: Incident Management Team