



Northern Idaho Wildfire Update August 25, 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***
- **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. There is a chance for dry thunderstorms through 9 a.m. Tuesday. Max temperatures will be 82-87 in the valleys, and 75-84 in the mountains. Humidity levels will be 12-22 percent. Winds begin south at 2-7 mph, then become southeast in the afternoon. Valley/lower slope and upslope/valley winds will be 2 to 5 mph in the morning. Ridges/upper slope winds are expected to be 2-5 mph. Haines index 3. Tonight expect mostly clear conditions with areas of smoke, temperatures 48-57 in the valleys, and 51-60 in the mountains. Valley winds are expected to be 2-5 mph with higher level northeast transport winds 3-7 mph. Humidity levels will be on the increase as the week progresses, leading to the increased potential for widely scattered rain showers and thunderstorms this coming weekend.

- **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. Yesterday, there was minimal activity on the fire and no significant growth. There is a potential for the fire to become active today with breezy winds on the ridge top. Crews will continue to build fire line and put out hot spots up Long Canyon Creek and Parker Creek. Engines will be patrolling for hot spots and assisting with extinguishing the hot spot that continues to smolder in the drainage ditch. Air and ground resources will continue to scout the area. The Westside Road area is under a 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). Yesterday, there was minimal fire activity and no significant growth. This allowed fire crews to work on strengthening fire lines. There is a potential for the fires to become active today with breezy winds on the ridge tops. Smoke is likely to continue to limit aircraft working on the fire. 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 High School Gym.**

- **Scotchman Peak Fire: 2,876 acres.** Started 8/13, 4 mi NE of Clark Fork, N of Hwy 200. Yesterday, crews finished the line below the Scotchman Peak Fire and skidders working in that area were moved to help with efforts on the Whitetail Fire. The Scotchman Peak Fire has been moved to monitor status reflecting the completion of the line along the toe of the slope to the south of the fire and the rocky terrain that has slowed it to the north.
 - **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, a burn-out operation created a black line of reduced fuels 100 feet to the south of the 332 Road. Crews pushed the black line to the east along the road to prevent the fire from hooking around their line and moving toward the Clark Fork River. Today, burn-out operations will continue to extend the line to the east along the 332 Road on the Whitetail Fire. **Stage I evacuation preparation notice is in 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. Having removed the threat from the Marten Creek Fire to move towards the Whitetail, the smokejumper crews will be reassigned.
- **Marble Creek Fire 1,145 acres** (acreage adjusted due to updated mapping), 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. Engine crews will continue to work on containment and control lines using available resources and to scout locations where spread can best be minimized. Fire personnel: 59. Closures are in effect. **Community meeting planned for 6:00 pm TODAY at the St. Joe Lodge.**
 - **Tower Fire** (Kaniksu Complex includes areas in Washington and Idaho **total 11,159 acres.** 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, on the northeast end, the fire moved downhill and across the Squaw Valley Road. On the south end, north of Ojibway Knoll, the fire breached the control line but was caught and contained. There was considerable activity on the west side of the fire also, including north of Brown's Lake in the upper reaches of the Cee Cee Ah drainage. The main fire spotted over the line near Brown's Lake but was caught at 3 acres and contained. Military strike teams from Task Force 1st Round will begin to work with firefighters today . Closures and evacuations are in effect. Fire Information is 907-750-1639. towerfireinfo@gmail.com

- **Grizzly Complex: 10,032 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** (3,594 acres) encompasses Upper Stoney, Lower Stoney, North Suburban, South Suburban and East Suburban; **North Grizzly Fire** 2,503 acres) encompasses Grizzly Ridge; and **South Bobtail** 3,241) 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 Creek (200 ac), Grassy Mountain 470 ac) and East Fork (20 acres). Yesterday, fire crews strengthened line in the West Fork of Eagle Creek. Today, with the help of additional resources that arrived yesterday, fire crews will focus on improving fire line.

Public meeting planned for Thursday, August 27, 6:30pm at the Prichard-Murray Fire Department.

- **Snow Peak Complex: 270 acres**, 0% containment. ICT3 (Juvan), includes 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 very active yesterday and increased to 169 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 lightning slightning, 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 Mountain), 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 also are 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 junction with 396A Rd, then S on 396A Rd to end point, the boundary follows S to junction 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 junction 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. 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)

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.**

ACRONYMS:

- 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

ACTIVE FIRES IN NORTHERN IDAHO ---August 25, 2015				
	Location	Current Size	Protection Agency	Status
East Fork	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	20.0	IPNF	Start 8/22: IMT2 (Fry) Grizzly Complex
Grassy Mountain	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	470.0	IPNF	Start 8/22: IMT2 (Fry) Grizzly Complex
Fan Creek	NZ – Bonners Ferry	0.1	IPNF	Start 8/22:
Deception	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	1.0	IPNF	Start 8/22: (McCliIntick) Contained 8/23
Picnic	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	0.3	IPNF	Start 8/22: (Moore) Contained 8/23
		0.3		
White Rock Creek	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	200.0	IPNF	Start 8/22: IMT2 (Fry) Grizzly Complex
Jack Waite	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	1.0	IPNF	Start 8/22: IMT2 (Fry) Grizzly Complex
Steep Creek	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	6.0	IPNF	Start 8/22:
Aimes	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	1.0	IPNF	Start 8/22: (Davis)
Stony Creek	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	0.5	IPNF	Start 8/21:
Shirrtail	CZ – State - Cataldo	0.1	IDL	Start 8/21: ICT 5
Skitwish Peak	CZ-Coeur d’Alene River	0.3	IPNF	Start 8/21:ICT 5 (Johnson) controlled 8/23
Monument	CZ – Coeur d’Alene	20.0	IPNF	Start 8/21: (Feltman) Radio repeater site potentially threatened
Pretty	SZ – St. Joe	130.0	IPNF	Start 8/21: (Juvan) difficult access Snow Peak Complex
Marten Creek	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	169.0	IPNF	Start 8/19: IMT Type 2 (Hutton) Clark Fork Complex, west of Whitetail Fire
Salt Pork	SZ-St. Joe	0.1	IPNF	Start 8/17: Snow Peak Complex
My Ruby	SZ-St. Joe	0.5	IPNF	Start 8/17: Snow Peak Complex
Crater	SZ –St. Joe: BLM land	320.0	IPNF	Start 8/15:
Pole Creek	SZ – St. Joe	0.1	IPNF	Start 8/14: Snow Peak Complex
Game	SZ – St. Joe	2.0	IPNF	Start 8/14: Snow Peak Complex
Basin Creek	SZ – St. Joe	36.0	IPNF	Start 8/14: Snow Peak Complex
Solitaire Creek	CZ- Coeur d’Alene River	30.0	IPNF	Start 8/14:blocked trail 1525, IC Type 4 (Feltmann) area closure
Upper Priest	NZ – Priest Lake	70.0	IPNF	Start 8/14: area closures, monitored (S. Clemenson)
Whitetail Peak	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	739.0	IPNF	Start 8/14: Clark Fork Complex IMT Type 2 (Hutton) trail closures at Jordan Camp.
Scotchman Peak	NZ-Sandpoint	2876.0	IPNF	Start 8/13: Clark Fork Complex closure of trail systems Type 2 IMT (Hutton)
Not Creative	CZ-State-Cataldo	150.0	IPNF	Start 8/13: 100% containment, Type 4 ICT on Ranger District

Benewah Creek	SZ-State-West St. Joe	34.0	IDL	Start 8/13:ICT 4, (Schiermeister) contained, patrol status
Big Lost	SZ-State-Ponderosa	940.0	IDL	Start 8/13: 100% contained. Type 4 IMT on Ranger District
South Bobtail	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	3,241.0	IPNF	Start 8/13: Type 3 IMT (Day) and Bobtail Fire; Grizzly Complex
Chicadee	SZ- St. Joe	1.5	IPNF	Start 8/13: Snow Peak Complex
East Suburban	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River		IPNF	Start 8/13: Lower Flat Fire, Grizzly Complex
Bennett Peak	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	3.0	IPNF	Start 8/12: contained, monitor
Caribou Creek	SZ – St. Joe	270.0	IPNF	Start 8/12: Snow Peak Complex
North Grizzly	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	2,503.0	IPNF	Start 8/12: Grizzly Ridge, part of Grizzly Complex
Downey	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	9.0	IPNF	Start 8/12: Downey contained; part of Grizzly Complex
Lower Flat	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	3,594.0	IPNF	Start 8/12 Grizzly Complex (Lower Flat)
Lightning Ridge	SZ – St. Joe	7.0	IPNF	Start 8/12: Snow Peak Complex
Trail 55	SZ - St. Joe /state lands	0.3	IPNF	Start 8/12: Snow Peak Complex
Tower	Colville NF		CNF	Start 8/11: Fire is in Washington5% contained
	NZ Idaho Panhandle			
Ruby Point	SZ – St. Joe	78.0	IPNF	Start 8/11: Snow Peak Complex
North Suburban	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River		IPNF	Start 8/11: part of Lower Flat, Grizzly Complex
South Suburban	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River		IPNF	Start 8/11 part of Lower Flat, Grizzly Complex
Upper Stoney	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River		IPNF	Start 8/11 part of Lower Flat, Grizzly Complex
Lower Stoney	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River		IPNF	Start 8/11: part of Lower Flat, Part of Grizzly Complex
Falls Ridge	SZ–State–West St. Joe	0.9	IPNF	Start 8/11:contained, patrol status
Marble Creek	SZ - St. Joe	1,145.0	IPNF	Start 8/11: IC Type 3 (Mandel) 5% contained
Pond Peak	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	1.0	IPNF	Start 8/11: contained
Murray Peak	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	5.0	IPNF	Start 8/11: contained (Part of Grizzly)
Slaughter House	SZ – State –	47.0	IDL	Start 8/10: contained, patrolled
	West St. Joe			
3 Sisters	NZ-Pend Oreille	228.0	IDL	Start 8/4: contained
Parker Ridge	NZ – Bonners Ferry	6,222.0	IPNF	Start 7/29: IMT3(Weeks) closures in effect , 27% contained
Hobo	SZ- St. Joe	45.0	IPNF	Start 7/23: contained/ monitored
Elevator	SZ-St. Joe	25.0	IPNF	Start 7/22; contained/ monitored
Cape Horn	NZ-Pend Oreille	1326.0	IDL	Start 7/5: contained /mop-up, cause under investigation