



Northern Idaho Wildfire Update August 27, 2015



Contact: Interagency Fire Information Line (208) 765-7383
National fire information website: www.inciweb.nwcg.gov
Closure details: www.fs.usda.gov/ipnf
Restriction information: <http://idahofireinfo.blogspot.com/> or <http://firerestrictions.us/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USFSIPNF>
Hunting and fishing information: (208)334-2592 <https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/content/fire>

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*

Fires across north Idaho have the potential to burn actively today. Max temperatures will be slightly cooler than yesterday at 85-90 in the valleys, and 78-88 in the mountains. Humidity levels will increase slightly to 14-21 percent. Transport winds will be southwest at 5 to 10 mph with valley and upslope winds steady at 2 to 5 mph. Ridges/upper slope winds are expected to be southwest at 2-5 mph. Haines index = 3. Tonight, expect mostly clear conditions with areas of smoke, temperatures will be 52-60 in the valleys. Valley winds are expected to be southwest at 4-8 mph with higher level southwest transport winds at 10-15 mph. Humidity levels will increase as the week progresses. A developing front will lead to increased potential for widely scattered rain showers and thunderstorms this coming weekend accompanied by sustained winds of 15-25 mph, and gusts of 35 mph. A cooler and unsettled weather pattern will remain over the region until early next week.

- **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 6,252 acres, 27% containment.** Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) (Weeks) 7/29 lightning start. Location is approximately 20 miles NW of Bonners Ferry and 7 miles SW of Porthill, ID. Yesterday, fire activity was minimal with occasional torching within the perimeter of the fire. Crews continued building line and putting out hot spots along the north and northeast sides of the fire near Long Canyon Ridge. Crews made progress with line building and mopping up along the south flank of the fire near Parker Creek while a helicopter performed several bucket drops. Aside from a smoldering peat bog in a drainage ditch, the area east of the Westside Road has been mopped up. Today, fire crews will continue to build fire line and put out hot spots near Long Canyon Ridge and Parker Creek. Engines will patrol for hot spots and assist on hot spots in the drainage ditch. Air and ground resources will continue to scout the area while felling operations remove hazard trees. The Westside Road area continues under a Stage

I Alert. Closures remain in effect. Personnel: 83. Fire information contact : 208-267-6773 Email: parkerridgefireinfo@gmail.com

- **Clark Fork Complex: total complex= 12,405 acres, 25 % containment.** Type 2 IMT (Hutton). Complex of fires located in northern Idaho near Clark Fork 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. Closures remain in effect. Fire personnel: 343. Fire information: 406-847-9974 or 406-827-0738. clarkfork2015@gmail.com **Whitetail Fire: 1,594** Started 8/14 located south of Hwy 200 and 9 mi S of Clark Fork, eight miles SW of Heron, Montana. Yesterday fire activity was moderate with occasional torching, short-range spotting, and slow growth around the perimeter. Fire crews conducted direct attack on the north side of the fire and worked to secure fire lines and construct contingency lines, particularly along the 332 Road. Today, crews will continue line building and holding actions along the 332 Road to keep the Whitetail fire from spreading north and east across the Shoshone/Bonner County line. ns of the fires edge, and build contingency lines particularly along the 332 road. **Stage I evacuation preparation notice continues in effect for the area south of the Clark Fork River between the state line and Johnson Creek on the Idaho side.** **Scotchman Peak Fire: 1,920 acres** (updated with more accurate mapping). Started 8/13, 4 mi NE of Clark Fork, N of Hwy 200. The fire is now in patrol status following successful completion of the control line around the fire. **Marten Fire: 5 acres** Started 8/19 to the west of the Whitetail Fire. Crews will monitor the fire to ensure that current containment actions are holding.
- **Marble Creek Fire: 1,960 acres, 10 % contained.** 8/11 lightning start. Type 3 IMT (Mandel). Located approximately 30 mi. east of St. Marie. The fire is not threatening structures but is burning near commercial timber lands. Hot, dry conditions and gusty winds caused the Marble Creek Fire to grow by nearly 700 acres yesterday afternoon. The fire will likely continue to spread today, with occasional spotting and torching, mainly toward the south and east. The increased fire activity resulted in increased smoke in the valley while winds aloft carried ash toward Avery and beyond. No homes or businesses are threatened at this time and no evacuations are in place. Fire crews continue to work on containment. Crews will continue to work on containment and control lines. Fire personnel: 103. Closures remain in effect.
- **Tower Fire** (Kansu Complex includes areas in Washington and Idaho. Complex= **13,854 acres.** Includes Baldy, Grease Creek, Onata Creek and Tower) ICT (Kurth) **Tower Fire is 12,921 acres on the Idaho Panhandle NF and is all within Washington state. 10% containment.** The fire started on the 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. Fire personnel:701 on complex. The Tower Fire has reached, but not crossed, the Cee Cee Ah Road. South of Brown's Lake, The Tower Fire was very active yesterday. The containment percentage increased despite fire activity. Some of the more active areas were on Pyramid Pass and around Brown's Lake. Firefighters made significant use of retardant drops in these areas late in the day. Closures and evacuations remain in effect. Fire Information is 907-750-1639. towerfireinfo@gmail.com **Kaniksu .** **Community Meetings: Friday, Aug. 28, 2015-7:30 pm at Camas Center Gym and Saturday, Aug. 29, 2015 7:30 pm at Priest River Elementary School.**

- **Grizzly Complex: 12,137 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. Fire personnel: 161. Several fires have burned together and are being tracked as **Lower Flat Fire** (4,813 acres) encompassing Upper Stoney, Lower Stoney, North Suburban, South Suburban and East Suburban; **North Grizzly Fire** (2,658 acres) encompasses Grizzly Ridge; and **South Bobtail** (3,825 acres) encompasses **Bobtail Fire; Grassy Mountain** (555 acres). Four new fire starts resulted from a lightning storm on 8/21, including: Jack Waite (1 acre), White Rock Creek (260 acres), and miscellaneous small fires (35 acres). Yesterday, the fire was active with uphill runs, torching, and spotting. Today fire crews will focus on mop-up after yesterday's burnout to protect the Ferguson Ranch and continue scouting access points for containment operations, and assessing structures. **Community meeting planned for Thursday, August 27, 6:30pm at the Prichard-Murray Fire Depart.**
- **Snow Peak Complex: 270 acres**, 0% contained. 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 is currently at 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.
- **Last Inch: 697 acres**, 35% contained. 8/21 lightning IMT Type 2 (Shenk) Located 12 miles east of Clarkia. Yesterday, there was a moderate increase in fire behavior with trees torching inside the perimeter. Crews constructed additional containment line to prevent eastward spread. Today, fire crews will reinforce existing control lines focusing on fire boundaries west of Woesner Ridge. Fire personnel: 122 Phone: 508-400-3891 lastinchfireinfo@gmail.com
- **Not Creative Fire 150 acres**, 100% contained, 8/13 lightning, Type IV IMT on the local Ranger District is managing the fire which is on patrol status. 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, Management of the fire was transitioned to the Ponderosa District of the Idaho Department of Lands. 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.

CURRENT CLOSURES ON IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FOREST

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 south 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)
For information regarding fire activity and closures on the Kootenai National Forest in Montana, please see the Forest website: www.fs.usda.gov/kootenai

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
- NF: National Forest

SUMMARY TABLE: ACTIVE WILDFIRES IN NORTHERN IDAHO - AUGUST 26, 2015

Incident Name	Location	Current Size	Protection Agency	Status
Breezy	SZ - St. Joe	91.0	IPNF	Start 8/25: on BLM land within Marble closure
East Fork	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	20.0	IPNF	Start 8/22: IMT2 (Fry) Grizzly Complex
Grassy Mountain	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	555.0	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: (McClintick) Contained 8/23
Picnic	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	0.3	IPNF	Start 8/22: (Moore) Contained 8/23
White Rock Creek	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	2.0	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:
Shirttail	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) burning old snag, heavy ground fuel controlled 8/23
Monument	CZ – Coeur d’Alene	20.0	IPNF	Start 8/21: (Feltman) Radio repeater site potentially threatened
Pretty	SZ – St. Joe	169.0	IPNF	Start 8/21: (Juvan) difficult access Snow Peak Complex
Marten Creek	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	5.0	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, fire is lined, edges secure, 8/19 burned out green finger
Upper Priest	NZ – Priest Lake	70.0	IPNF	Start 8/14: area closures, monitored (S. Clemenson)8/19active after several calm days
Whitetail Peak	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	1594.0	IPNF	Start 8/14: Clark Fork Complex IMT Type 2 (Hutton) trail closures at Jordan Camp.
Scotchman Peak	NZ-Sandpoint	1920.0	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	3825.0	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	2658.0	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	4813.0	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, scratch line in, low spread potential
Tower	Colville NF	13854.0	CNF	Start 8/11: Fire is in Washington5% contained
Last Inch	NZ Idaho Panhandle	91	IPNF	Start 8/21: IMT 2 (Shenk)
Ruby Point	SZ – St. Joe	78.0	IPNF	Start 8/11: Snow Peak Complex
North Suburban	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	91	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	1960.0	IPNF	Start 8/11: IC Type 3 (Mandel) 10%
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, continue mop-up 8/19 (Part of Grizzly)
Slaughter House	SZ – State West St. Joe	47.0	IDL	Start 8/10: contained, patrolled
3 Sisters	NZ-Pend Oreille	228.0	IDL	Start 8/4: contained
Parker Ridge	NZ – Bonners Ferry	6252.0	IPNF	Start 7/29: IMT3(Weeks) structure protection, 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, patrol cause under investigation