



Northern Idaho Wildfire Update September 3, 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>

Northern Rockies Fire Information (Montana): (406) 829-7316

FIRE DANGER: **VERY HIGH**

Wildfire Preparedness dropped to PL 4 yesterday - fires will start easily from most causes, spread rapidly and have a quick increase in intensity, right after ignition. Small fires can quickly become large fires and exhibit extreme fire intensity, such as long-distance spotting and fire whirls. These fires can be difficult to control and will often become much larger and longer-lasting fires. **Stage II Fire Restrictions are in effect within Grangeville & Coeur d'Alene Dispatch Restriction Areas.**

WEATHER:

There is a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms through the day and into the evening, with patchy smoke and possibly frost overnight. Daytime high temps will be 64-69 in valleys and 54-63 in mountains. Humidity will be 20-30 percent in the valley and 28-40 percent in the mountains. The 24-hour trend is 10 percent drier. The 20-foot and transport winds will be southwest 5-10 mph. Lightning activity level (LAL) = 2

For the latest air quality rating: <http://www.deq.idaho.gov>

SUMMARY: Hwy 50 into Montana (Gold Pass) is re-open as of today. All other forest closures will remain in place through the upcoming holiday weekend due to concerns with firefighter and public safety. The following is a listing of larger active fires on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests:

- **Parker Ridge Fire- total acreage 6,559, 50% containment.** Type 3 IMT (Weeks); 7/29 lightning start. Location is approximately 20 miles NW of Bonners Ferry and 7 miles SW of Porthill, ID. Fire personnel: 62. Some precipitation in the area. Crews will continue mop-up and full suppression strategy, where feasible. A Stage I Alert has lifted. Fire information: 208-267-6773 Email: parkerridgefireinfo@gmail.com
- **Clark Fork Complex- total acreage 15,732 acres, 55% containment.** Type 2 IMT (Hutton); 8/14 start. Located in N. Idaho and NW Montana. Fire personnel: 265. Complex includes the following fires with most recent acreage updates: Scotchman Peak (2,056 acres), Whitetail (1,869 acres), Sawtooth* (2,465 acres), Marten Creek (5 acres), Napoleon* (8,957 acres), and Government* (399 acres). Fire experienced an increase in activity yesterday as sunshine and moderate winds exposed hot areas. The activity was within the interior of the fire perimeter. An emergency Forest closure remains in effect for the area around the Scotchman Peak Fire. There has been a large amount of recreation traffic below the fire front and the public is urged to stay out of this area. *These fires

are under Kootenai National Forest ownership. Fire information: 406-847-9974 or 406-827- 0731. clarkfork2015@gmail.com

- **Avery Fire Complex - total acreage 5,315 acres, 3% containment.** Type 2 IMT (Rosenthal) is in place; 8/11 lightning starts, located in the southeastern portion of the St. Joe Ranger District, approx. 7 miles SW of Avery, ID. Fire personnel: 286. Complex now includes 4 fires: Pretty (256 acres), Marble Creek (3,070 acres), Crater (593 acres), and Breezy (1,396 acres). Areas along the fire perimeter and interior that contain heat continue to burn actively. Crews made good progress on east flank of Breezy Fire, and will continue burn-out operations on Marble Creek. Pretty and Crater fires remain unstaffed. Road and area closures remain in effect. Fire information: 208-262-3910.
- **Tower Fire – total acreage 24,450, 12% containment.** Alaska IMT (Kurth); 8/11 lightning start, located 17 mi. north of Newport, WA and 6 mi. west of Priest Lake, ID. Fire personnel: 803. (Part of Kaniksu Complex which includes fires in Washington and Idaho: Baldy (515 acres, 100% containment), Onata (546 acres, 39% containment), Hall Mountain (39 acres), Grease Creek (609 acres), Slate Creek (1 acre), and South Fork Slate Creek Trail (167 acres). The Colville NF is managing the fire with guidance from Idaho Panhandle NF fire management. Though fire activity has decreased, fire and smoke will still be visible. Closures remain in effect. **A public meeting is scheduled Saturday September 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the Priest Lake Elementary School.** Fire information: 907-750-1639 or 208-443-6835 or towerfireinfo@gmail.com
- **Grizzly Complex: 18,603 acres, 1% containment.** Type 2 IMT (Fry); 8/10 lightning starts (16 fires); located between Enaville and Murray Idaho, in the North Fork of the Coeur d’Alene River drainage near Grizzly Peak. Fire personnel: 190. All of the initial fire starts have since been contained or grown together; complex now consists of 3 larger fires and 3 medium fires: Lower Flat Fire (6,800 acres), South Bobtail (6,217 acres), North Grizzly (3,675 acres), Grassy Mountain (835 acres), White Rock Creek (752 acres), Steep Creek (295 acres), and other small fires combined (29 acres). A Stage 1 evacuation notice continues to be in effect in Shoshone County ID for the Hope Valley Road residents near Trout Creek, MT. **Public meeting tonight, 9/3/15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Prichard Murray Fire Hall.** Fire information: 208-784-0219.
- **Monument: 618 acres, 10% containment.** Local Type 3 IC; 8/21 lightning start; located on Monument Peak 15 miles North of Rose Lake on the Coeur d’Alene River RD. Crews were able to make great progress, increasing containment from 5%.
- **Snow Peak Complex*: Total acreage for complex: 6,552 acres, 0% containment.** Local Type 3 IC (Juvan). The Snow Peak Complex is comprised of 11 separate fires within the southeastern portion of the St. Joe Ranger District including the Snow Peak Wildlife Management Area, upper portion of the Mallard Larkins Pioneer Area, and the Ruby Point to Yankee Peak area south of the St. Joe River. (Ruby Point, Basin Creek, Trail 55, Caribou, Lightning Ridge, Chicadee, Game, Pole Creek, and My Ruby fires.) A major portion of this complex consists of the Chicadee Fire (5,393 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. The Snow Peak Complex area is currently closed to all public access. *Due to limited staffing and resources on this fire, acreage and containment updates will only be reported weekly (Thursdays).*

- **Last Inch: 689 acres, 74% containment.** Type 2 IMT (Schenk); 8/21 lightning start; located 12 miles east of Clarkia in Glover Creek/ Woesner Ridge and into west Floodwater Creek drainage. Fire personnel: 92. Fire received some rain making steep slopes more of a challenge for firefighters. Activity was minimal with creeping and smoldering. Fire information: 508-400-3891 lastinchfireinfo@gmail.com
- **Lone Mountain Fire: 135 acres, ignited by downed power line 8/29; Controlled.** Located approximately 15 miles north of Coeur d' Alene, ID.

Evacuation 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.
Definitions: Level 1 Alert (Get Ready) Residents should be ready, aware of increased risk and 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. Monitor emergency services, a significant danger exists. It is suggested you voluntarily relocate to a shelter or with family/friends.

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

TEMPORARY WILDFIRE EMERGENCY CLOSURES ON IDAHO PANHANDLE NF

Emergency closures are in effect due to fire activity. **See the Idaho Panhandle National Forest website for the full text and map of each closure.** Public is prohibited to go into or be upon these areas, roads, and trails.

- **Priest Lake Ranger District (RD) - The Tower closure was expanded 8/31/15. See website for detailed map.** Due to Upper Priest Fire: Road 1013 north of Lime Creek. Trail #308 and Trail #28.
- **Bonnors Ferry RD - Due to Parker Ridge Fire:** Parker Creek Trail #14, Long Canyon Trail #16 and Parker Ridge Trail #221. Previously closed trails remain closed. They include Parker Ridge Trail #221 (Sections 7 and 8 of T64N, R1W and sections 12, 13, 14, 15, 2, and 27 of R2W) and the Fisher Peak Trail.
- **Sandpoint RD - Due to Clark Fork Complex (Scotchman Peak and Whitetail Fires):** The Scotchman Peak and Clark Fork Closures.
- **Coeur d'Alene River RD – Due to Grizzly Complex:** The Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District Fire Closure encompasses the majority of the district land, south of Bunco Road (FS 332) and north of I-90.
- **St. Joe RD– Due to Avery and Snow Peak Complexes:** The Marble Creek, Breezy-Chicadee, and Snow Peak Closures combine to encompass a large portion of the St. Joe Ranger District and nearby BLM and industrial timber lands. Closure impacts areas south of Highway 50 and the St. Joe River, east of Marble Creek Road and west of Forest Road 218 (Red Ives Rd.) Highway 50 and the St. Joe River Road and campgrounds along the river remain open. Highway 50 into Montana over Gold Pass beyond the Forest Road 218 junction is closed. Generally, all lands south of the St. Joe River and east of Marble Creek remain closed.

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.**

SUMMARY TABLE: ACTIVE WILDFIRES IN NORTHERN IDAHO – SEPTEMBER 2, 2015				
Incident Name	Location	Current Size (acres)	Protection Agency	Status
Birthday	SZ – St. Joe	158	IPNF	Start 8/27; Snow Peak Complex
Breezy	SZ - St. Joe	1,396	IPNF	Start 8/25: IMT 2 (Rosenthal) Avery Complex
Grassy Mountain	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	835	IPNF	Start 8/22: IMT2 (Fry) Grizzly Complex
White Rock Creek	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	752	IPNF	Start 8/22: IMT2 (Fry) Grizzly Complex
Jack Waite	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	1	IPNF	Start 8/22: IMT2 (Fry) Grizzly Complex
Steep Creek	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	295	IPNF	Start 8/22: IMT2 (Fry) Grizzly Complex
Stony Creek	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	30.5	IPNF	Start 8/21: ICT5, 100% contained;
Monument	CZ – Coeur d’Alene	618	IPNF	Start 8/21: Type 3 IC (Zuefelt); 70% contained
Pretty	SZ – St. Joe	256	IPNF	Start 8/21: IMT 2 (Rosenthal); Avery Complex
Marten Creek	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	5	IPNF	Start 8/19: IMT Type 2 (Hutton) Clark Fork Complex
Salt Pork	SZ-St. Joe	188	IPNF	Start 8/17: Snow Peak Complex
Crater	SZ –St. Joe; BLM land	593	IPNF	Start 8/15:Avery Complex
Lightning Ridge	SZ – St. Joe	25	IPNF	Start 8/14; Snow Peak Complex
Pole Creek	SZ – St. Joe	1	IPNF	Start 8/14: Snow Peak Complex
Game	SZ – St. Joe	35	IPNF	Start 8/14: Snow Peak Complex
Basin Creek	SZ – St. Joe	425	IPNF	Start 8/14: Snow Peak Complex
Upper Priest	NZ – Priest Lake	108	IPNF	Start 8/14: working on section above road
Whitetail Peak	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	1,869	IPNF	Start 8/14: Type 2 (Hutton) 35% contained, Clark Fork Complex
Scotchman Peak	NZ-Sandpoint	2,056	IPNF	Start 8/13: Type 2 IMT (Hutton) Clark Fork Complex
Not Creative	CZ-State-Cataldo	135	IPNF	Start 8/13: 100% containment, Type 4 ICT on Ranger District; patrol status
Benewah Creek	SZ-State-West St. Joe	34	IDL	Start 8/13:ICT 4, (Schiermeister) contained, patrol status
Big Lost	SZ-State-Ponderosa	840	IDL	Start 8/13: 100% contained. Type 4 IMT on Ranger District; mop-up/ patrol status
South Bobtail	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	6,217	IPNF	Start 8/13: Grizzly Complex
Chicadee	SZ- St. Joe	5,393	IPNF	Start 8/13: Snow Peak Complex
Caribou Creek	SZ – St. Joe	212.0	IPNF	Start 8/12: Snow Peak Complex
North Grizzly	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	3,675	IPNF	Start 8/12: Grizzly Complex
Lower Flat	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	6,800	IPNF	Start 8/12: Grizzly Complex
Trail 55	SZ - St. Joe	15	IPNF	Start 8/12: Snow Peak Complex,

SUMMARY TABLE: ACTIVE WILDFIRES IN NORTHERN IDAHO – SEPTEMBER 2, 2015				
Tower	Colville NF	26,227	CNF	Start 8/11: Kaniksu complex, 22% contained
Last Inch	NZ Idaho Panhandle	737	IPNF	Start 8/21: IMT 2 (Schenk) 69% contained
Ruby Point	SZ – St. Joe	210	IPNF	Start 8/11: Snow Peak Complex
Marble Creek	SZ - St. Joe	3,070	IPNF	Start 8/11: IMT 2 (Rosenthal) Avery Complex
Murray Peak	CZ – Coeur d’Alene River	5	IPNF	Start 8/11: Grizzly Complex
Slaughter House	SZ – State West St. Joe	47	IDL	Start 8/10: contained, patrolled
Parker Ridge	NZ – Bonners Ferry	6,559	IPNF	Start 7/29: IMT3 (Weeks), 45% contained