



Kootenai River Complex

Wildfire Fact Sheet

Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022 at 9:00 AM



Inciweb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/8378/>

Email: 2022.kootenai@firenet.gov

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

Fire Information Phone: (208) 202-5021

Boundary County Emergency Line: (208) 696-2626

*****Please note: Factsheets on the Kootenai River Complex will be provided with less frequency or as operations change.*****

Incident Command: Type 2 Eastern Area Incident Management Team Gold, Brian Pisarek, IC

Estimated Size: 21,692 acres

Completion: 85%

Personnel: 221

Key Message: The next step in managing these fires is Suppression Repair. Crews have begun constructing water bars along dozer lines where they won't affect the integrity of the control line. Water bars are structures built by creating a raised mound of material diagonally across a flat area to prevent erosion downslope from water runoff. In this case they're earth material, sand and gravel, piled across bulldozed fire lines.

Current Status: Smoke and fog have been settling at low elevations and have been slow to lift during the day. This has made monitoring difficult in the mornings for firefighters but has also kept fire behavior relatively low. Dead and down heavy fuels continue to be the main source of fire and smoke. The main operations firefighters are focusing on are patrolling fire control lines, mitigating hazard trees and snags, and chipping cut materials. Air resources were unable to fly recon routes yesterday due to the smoke and fog hanging over the area, but will resume as conditions improve.

Planned Actions: The Katka Fire and Long Canyon Fire have shown minimal fire growth and will continue to be unstaffed and monitored by aircraft. Crews will be actively looking for opportunities for suppression repair in areas that will not impact secure control lines. Fire intensity is expected to remain low, smoldering and creeping through dead and down fuels. Priorities are patrolling fire control lines and monitoring fire behavior, especially in canyons that have shown recent activity. There will still be chipping and hazard tree mitigation in the area.

Weather: Weather patterns will be warm and dry through Tuesday, but low wind speeds are expected. High temperatures in the valley will be up to the high 70's and minimum relative humidity will stay around 40%. Winds will be calm and variable through Tuesday at 2-5 mph and gusting up to 10 mph upslope.

Closures: Due to active fires and fire suppression activities, Westside Road is restricted to residents only. Additionally, the following National Forest Trails and Roads are now closed: Ball Creek Road (FR 432), Trout Creek Road (FR 634), Russell Mountain (No. 12), Russell Ridge (No. 92), Ball and Pyramid Lakes (No. 43), Pyramid Pass (No. 13), Pyramid Peak (No. 7), Fisher Peak (No. 27), Trout Lake (No. 41), McGinty Ridge (No. 143), Clifty Mountain and Clifty/Burrow (No. 182), Myrtle Peak Trail (No. 286), and Burton Peak Trail (No. 9).

Evacuations: There are **NO Evacuations** currently in place. Those living on the Westside Road closest to Ball Creek, Burton Creek, and Clark Creek are in **READY** fire pre-evacuation status. Residents of Boundary County, Idaho can visit <https://www.nixle.com> or text their home zip code to 888777 to sign up for emergency alerts. To learn more about **READY SET GO**, visit <https://bit.ly/3wi0jMu>.

Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR): There are TFRs in place for air space over the Katka Fire (2-2384) and the Russell Mountain Fire (2-1621) for aviation safety. Remember that temporary flight restrictions also apply to unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) or drones. **If you fly, we can't!**