



# Consalus Fire

Priest River Ranger District, Idaho Panhandle National Forests

Fire Information 208-996-0980 | 2023.consalus@firenet.gov  
<https://tinyurl.com/consalusfire>

July 13, 2023



**Location:** 10 miles west of Coolin, ID, in Pend Oreille County, WA

**Start Date:** 6/30/2023 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 264 acres **Containment:** 10% **Total Personnel:** 210

**Equipment:** Heavy Equipment Task Force, 2 Dozers, Excavator, Water Tender, Feller Buncher, Masticator

**Hand Crews:** 6 + a district module **Engines:** 2 **Other:** 3 Faller Modules, 4 Water Tenders, Ambulance, REMs

**An Idaho Panhandle National Forests closure is effective July 13, 2023, at midnight for the following roads: Forest Service Road (FSR) #1108 from the junction with FSR #333 to the junction with FSR #659; FSR #1094 will remain open for the first 4.5 miles from the junction with FSR #312, but the remainder of FSR #1094 will be closed to the junction with FSR #1108.**

The fire was most active on the northern edge yesterday. Helicopters dropped water to cool and slow fire progression. Crews are preparing the line to begin strategic firing operations on the north side in the next few days when the conditions are right. Ahead of these operations, sawyers are felling trees several tree lengths into the interior to mitigate falling snags. The firing operations reduce fuels and create depth between the fire, the firelines, and unburned fuels. Firefighters continue strengthening and improving the completed heavy equipment line along the northeast perimeter.

On the east side, heavy equipment is progressing, working off a long ridge. Hand crews are constructing a fireline down into Consalus Creek. A type 3 dozer will begin opening FSR #333 on the southeast side to provide access to the south end. Additional faller modules have arrived and will work to build sawline and mitigate snags. Crews continue to set up sprinkler systems along the constructed fireline on the southwest side.

Fire managers are scouting for areas to tie firelines together on the south side as operations begin to come together from the east and west. Additionally, two new helispots were approved to allow for faster firefighter extrication by helicopter in the event of an accident.

## WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Today's weather will be partly cloudy to mostly sunny with a 10% chance of sprinkles in the morning. Maximum temperatures will be around 83 degrees with minimum humidity 32 percent.

## CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

**For firefighter and public safety, please avoid the following roads if possible:** The remaining portion of FSR #1094 not part of the closure order; FSR #312 from the junction with FSR #333 to the junction with FSR #659; FSR #659 in its entirety; and FSR #333 from Highway 57 to the junction with FSR #1108. Anyone accessing the Crystal Mine off FSR #659, please pull off the road, as heavy equipment and firefighting personnel must be able to get through. Please refer to the incident PIO map for a visual explanation.

There is a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) over the fire area. For the safety of aerial resources and firefighters on the ground, please do not fly unmanned aircraft (drones) in the fire vicinity. **If you fly, we can't.**