



Consalus Fire

Priest Lake Ranger District, Idaho Panhandle National Forests

Fire Information 208-996-0980 | 2023.consalus@firenet.gov

<https://tinyurl.com/consalusfire>

July 14, 2023



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

Start Date: 6/30/2023 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 305 acres **Containment:** 10% **Total Personnel:** 265

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

Hand Crews: 8 + a district module **Engines:** 2 **Aircraft:** 1 helicopter **Other:** 5 Faller Modules, 4 Water Tenders, Ambulance, REMs

Firefighters began conducting strategic firing operations on the northwest side of the fire yesterday to reduce fuels and create depth between the fire, the firelines, and unburned fuels. A 5-person crew was out overnight to monitor the edge where these operations occurred. If conditions allow, crews will continue east across the north perimeter with additional firing operations. On the east side, the Flathead Interagency Hotshot Crew completed the handline up from the Consalus Creek bottom. At the same time, heavy equipment pushed down toward them.

A dozer made progress in opening Forest Service Road (FSR) #333, so firefighters and equipment can access the fire's south side. On the southwest edge, crews have set up sprinkler systems along the fireline. They have also completed a direct handline and laid hose down the fire's west side. An indirect fireline is further out from the fire to the west if needed.

A Type 1 helicopter is now assigned to the fire for water drops, and other helicopters and airplanes are available for various missions if needed.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Today will be mostly sunny. Maximum temperatures will be around 85 degrees with minimum humidity around 30 percent. Winds will be south to southwest 3 to 8 mph.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

An Idaho Panhandle National Forests closure (Closure Order # 01-04-08-23-002) 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.

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 Crystal digging 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.**