



Consalus Fire

Priest Lake Ranger District, Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Fire Information 208-996-0980 | 2023.consalus@firenet.gov

<https://tinyurl.com/consalusfire>

July 15, 2023



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

Start Date: 6/30/2023 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 314 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

The strategic firing operations that began on Thursday held overnight, and firefighters continued Friday across the northwest edge. Crews stayed late yesterday to complete these operations. Progress was steady but slow as they worked in steep terrain with heavy fuels. The firing operations aim to reduce fuels and create depth between the fire, the firelines, and unburned fuels, which should ultimately lead to more containment.

On the east side, the Flathead Interagency Hotshot Crew finished laying hose in the handline constructed the previous two days into the Consalus Creek drainage. A dozer continued working off the ridge to tie in with this handline.

Equipment operators have completed an indirect line down the west side to a knob southwest of the fire. Crews have almost completed handline and laid hose on the west fire's edge (direct line) down to the same knob.

The falling modules, comprised of highly trained sawyers, are cutting standing dead trees (snags) ahead of firefighters working on direct handline around the fire. Heavy equipment operators continue to open roads, improve current lines, and begin constructing new ones as good routes are identified. Fire managers are close to figuring out where the lines will connect from the east and west on the south side. After that, they will look for additional areas to construct lines closer to the fire to keep the fire footprint as small as possible.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Hot and dry conditions are expected throughout the weekend. Today will be sunny and hazy. Maximum temperatures will be around 90 degrees with minimum humidity around 21 percent. Winds will be southwest 4 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.**