



NORTHERN ROCKIES TEAM 9 INCIDENT COMMANDER: SHANE MARTIN

Bee Top Fire

Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Sandpoint Ranger District

Fire Information 1-208-953-7021 2023.beetop@firenet.gov
<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/idipf-bee-top-fire>
July 14, 2023

Location: 5 miles up Lightning Creek Road on Bee Top Mountain
Start Date: 7/1/23 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 45 acres **Containment:** 35%.
Total Personnel: 125 **Engines:** 2 **Helicopters:** 3 **Hand Crews:** 3

Yesterday, Klamath Interagency Hotshots Crew (IHC) constructed hand line and saw line along the west flank of the fire, progressing from the bottom of the mountain to the top. With saw line completed on the east flank, Plumas IHC continued to construct hand line from the top of the fire downward and Mad River IHC pushed up from the bottom. The Initial Attack (IA) group began backhauling hose from the contingency line to the west of the fire.

Helicopters cooled the fire with bucket drops and sling-loaded gear and food to crews at spike camps mid-way up the mountain. An Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) was deployed to identify interior heat and hot spots along the fire perimeter.

Today, crews will continue constructing hand line over previously constructed saw line and securing the fire edge as they go. Klamath IHC will work on the west perimeter of the fire, constructing direct hand line and saw line. Plumas IHC and Mad River IHC will continue constructing hand line on the east flank of the fire and improve existing line. Crews will begin extinguishing hot spots within the fire perimeter to prevent rollouts. Crews will continue to sleep in spike camps on the mountain tonight with aerial support from helicopters slinging in food and gear. The IA group will begin chipping operations and continue to backhaul hose from the contingency lines.

Helicopters will continue to provide bucket drops to cool the fire and allow crews to have better access to the fire perimeter and support crew operations on the mountain. The UAS will continue to search for interior heat and hot spots.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

A high pressure system will build over the next couple of days, bringing warm and dry air to the fire with light winds Friday and Saturday. Local gusts to 15 mph. This pattern is forecast to breakdown by Monday with dry, gusty winds. Fire behavior will be minimal today, with backing, creeping, and smoldering.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

There are currently no road or trail closures associated with the Bee Top Fire, however road, trail, and area closures may occur if the fire reaches pre-determined decision points, creating dangerous conditions. The public is urged to use caution and check Inciweb regularly for the latest fire information before recreating in the area.