



# Consalus Fire

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

<https://tinyurl.com/consalusfire>

July 16, 2023



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

**Start Date:** 6/30/2023 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 378 acres **Containment:** 10% **Total Personnel:** 272

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

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

At the end of Saturday, the initial line was complete around the fire, and firefighters will continue working to improve all lines. Additional direct and indirect lines may be constructed where it strategically makes sense. Weather conditions are shifting to hot and dry, with increased winds Sunday night into Monday that could test firelines.

The strategic firing operations conducted Thursday and Friday were successful, and crews continued to cool the burned edge on Saturday. In the coming days, fire managers will look for opportunities to conduct more strategic firing operations off the lines on the east and southeast sides of the fire as conditions allow. Ultimately, this work should lead to increased containment as fire managers become confident the fire is cooled far enough into the interior to stay within the firelines.

Standing dead trees (snags) continues to be one of the most significant hazards firefighters face. Falling modules of highly trained sawyers continue working ahead of crews to mitigate these trees as much as possible.

As crews time out after completing their 14-day assignments, fire managers are backfilling with fresh crews. Replacements will continue for the near future as progress is made on constructing and improving the line so it can hold if the fire pushes in any direction.

## WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Hot and dry conditions will continue today. Maximum temperatures will be around 90 degrees with minimum humidity around 19 percent. Winds will primarily be light and terrain driven, southwest 2 to 5 mph.

## CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

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