



# Consalus Fire

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

<https://tinyurl.com/consalusfire>

July 17, 2023



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

**Start Date:** 6/30/2023 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 414 acres **Containment:** 10% **Total Personnel:** 276

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

**Hand Crews:** 9 + a district module **Engines:** 4 **Aircraft:** 1 helicopter **Other:** 5 Faller Modules, 5 Water Tenders, Ambulance, REMS

If conditions are right, additional strategic firing operations will occur in the next few days on the east and southeast sides of the fire. An Unstaffed Aerial System (UAS), or drone, will be used for these firing operations, dropping plastic spheres that ignite as they fall. Sunday the drone operators flew a test flight to formulate a plan and determine where the firing will occur. Depending on the weather and fuel moisture levels, fire managers intend to begin ignitions on Tuesday. 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.

Where previous firing operations occurred on the north end, crews are monitoring the fire and keeping sprinkler systems operating. Firefighters completed lines on the fire's east side and are also running pumps and sprinklers. On Sunday, fire activity picked up on the south edge. A helicopter was used for water drops to dampen fire activity so crews could continue to put sprinklers in place. Several staffed engines are working the night shift to monitor the fire and keep sprinklers running.

The anticipated winds on Monday may cause increased fire behavior and more smoke. Although much of the fire is protected from strong winds, firelines could be tested in areas where conditions align.

## WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

A dry cold front is expected to pass over the fire midday, causing southwesterly winds and increasing speeds. The front will also drop temperatures sharply with slightly higher humidity levels. Most of the fire will be protected from the strongest winds; however exposed ridges will feel stronger winds. The high temperature will be around 80 degrees and minimum humidity 26 percent. Winds will be south, shifting to southwest 5-9 mph with gusts 14-18 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.**