



Consalus Fire

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

<https://tinyurl.com/consalusfire>

July 18, 2023



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

Start Date: 6/30/2023 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 444 acres **Containment:** 10% **Total Personnel:** 285

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

Hand Crews: 10 + a district module **Engines:** 4 **Aircraft:** 1 helicopter, 1 Unmanned Aerial System

Other: 5 Faller Modules, 5 Water Tenders, Ambulance, REMs

The Idaho Panhandle National Forests issued an emergency closure (Closure Order # 01-04-08-23-003) that went into effect July 18, 2023, at midnight, replacing Closure Order #01-04-08-23-002 issued on July 13. This emergency closure has been issued for public safety and prohibits all forms of travel on: 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. **Additional road closures now include FSR #659 from the junction with FSR #312 to the junction with FSR #659B; FSR #333 from the junction with FSR #2730 to its terminus.**

An Unmanned Aerial System (UAS), or drone, has been reassigned to the Consalus Fire from the Bee Top Fire. On Monday morning, the UAS flew an infrared (IR) flight to map the fire and identified a spot fire outside the north fireline. Crews were able to get a line around and water on it and catch it at 1.3 acres. Many trees have come down over the last few days and can throw sparks a long way. Although firefighters have been checking for spots, it was likely smoldering in the duff and fanned by the wind. Crews will continue to monitor and patrol the north end.

Yesterday crews ordered the helicopter for water drops to cool a pocket that was burning at a higher intensity on the northwest side. Firefighters continue to run sprinkler systems on the firelines around the fire. Several staffed engines are working the night shift to monitor the fire and keep sprinklers running.

Depending on weather and fuel moisture, fire managers are planning for additional strategic firing operations in the Consalus Creek area 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. On the southeast side, the fire is backing down through the understory to the firelines where firefighters can stop it.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Today will be mostly sunny. The high temperature will be 81-83 degrees and minimum humidity 25-29 percent. Transport winds will be northwest 5 to 10 mph. Fire has been active with group torching, flanking, and backing.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

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; and FSR #333 from Highway 57 to the junction with FSR #1108. 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.**