



Consalus Fire

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

<https://tinyurl.com/consalusfire>

July 19, 2023



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

Start Date: 6/30/2023 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 461 acres **Containment:** 10% **Total Personnel:** 337

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

Hand Crews: 9 + a district module **Engines:** 5 **Aircraft:** 1 helicopter, 1 Unmanned Aerial System

Other: 4 Faller Modules, 5 Water Tenders, Ambulance, REMs

The Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) flew another infrared flight Tuesday morning. Some areas on the east side near the current contained section show much less heat. Fire managers are assessing current lines to determine where they might be considered contained. Containment means a control line has been completed, which can reasonably be expected to stop the fire's spread. Containment increases when the burned area from the fireline into the interior has cooled and is unlikely to throw sparks over the line in the wind or if trees come down. While there are lines around the entire fire, most have not yet reached this status. Crews continue to improve lines, add additional contingency lines, and fight the fire directly to add depth and stop the fire's spread.

Standing dead trees (snags) continues to be one of the most significant hazards firefighters face. Sawyers are mitigating these trees, and crews stay out of them as much as possible, instead patrolling and running sprinkler systems. Heavy equipment operators are also still constructing and improving firelines. Night operations remain on the fire, patrolling and keeping sprinklers running. On the north, crews are gridding for spots, and cooling the fire's edge (mop-up) with water and hand tools.

Firefighters completed a strategic firing operation on Tuesday afternoon in the Consalus Creek area to burn out a small fuel pocket. A helicopter conducted water drops to prepare the line ahead of this operation. Additional firing operations will occur today if conditions allow. These operations will reduce fuels and add depth between the firelines and fire.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

The high temperature will be 89 degrees and minimum humidity 25 percent. Winds will be north to northeast at 1 to 4 mph in the morning and east to southeast at 2-5 mph in the afternoon with gusts to 8 mph along the ridges. The weather will be hot and dry through the end of the week and into the weekend. Fire has been active with group torching, flanking, and backing.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

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.**

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.**