



# Consalus Fire

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

<https://tinyurl.com/consalusfire>

July 20, 2023



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

**Start Date:** 6/30/2023 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 478 acres **Containment:** 10% **Total Personnel:** 293

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

**Hand Crews:** 6 + a district module **Engines:** 5 **Aircraft:** 2 helicopters, 1 Unmanned Aerial System

**Other:** 4 Faller Modules, 6 Water Tenders, Ambulance, REMs

As the weather becomes hotter and drier, increased smoke and fire activity is likely. The Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) flew another infrared flight Wednesday morning, showing the lines still holding. Other aircraft, including the helicopters, were not used on Wednesday.

Strategic firing operations on Wednesday were successful, and by the end of the day, crews were holding and securing the lines. These operations are intended to reduce fuels and add depth between the firelines and fire. The need for additional firing operations will be assessed and implemented as needed.

Around the perimeter, crews continue securing the direct line on the fire's edge. Fire managers are scouting for additional places to add contingency lines in case the primary lines don't hold. Firefighters continue to prepare and strengthen contingency lines already in place. Sawyers are still cutting down dead trees (snagging) around the fire perimeter to make it safer for firefighters to get in and run sprinkler systems and mop-up. Several crews continue to work the night shift, patrolling and keeping sprinkler systems running.

## WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

The weather will be mostly clear, with a light haze from the Canadian wildfires. Thursday and Friday will be hot, with high temperatures in the mid-90s. The wind through Thursday evening will be terrain driven at 4-7 mph. The minimum humidity will be 18 percent. Fire has been active with single tree torching, backing, and isolated torching.

## 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.**