



Consalus Fire

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

<https://tinyurl.com/consalusfire>

July 21, 2023



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

Start Date: 6/30/2023 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 467 acres **Containment:** 20% **Total Personnel:** 251

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

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

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

Containment on the fire has increased to 20% and is expected to go up more in the coming days. However, with the hot, dry weather, increased fire activity and smoke may occur in the interior. Where the firelines are not yet considered contained, there are still chances of the fire getting over the lines. Therefore, fire managers are assessing where additional contingency lines may be constructed in case the fire gets over the primary lines. Crews continue to improve previously constructed contingency lines and patrol and secure the direct line where it's safe. Multiple sawyers remain assigned to the fire, mitigating hazard trees to increase firefighter safety.

On Thursday, fire spotted over a piece of the line on the southeast perimeter. Two helicopters conducted water drops with buckets to cool it so the Flathead Interagency Hotshot Crew could get in to work it and get a line around it. It was caught at around 1/4 acre. Additionally, crews continued to patrol and secure the edge of the spot fire that occurred on Tuesday.

Improvements on Forest Service Road (FSR) #659 are being made to allow better travel access for crews and equipment. Heavy equipment remains on the fire for contingency line prep, widening roads, and creating turnouts for safe ingress and egress of fire traffic.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Humidity recovery will be fair to poor tonight, and into the weekend as hot high pressure builds over eastern Washington and north Idaho. Friday will be the hottest day of the seven-day forecast in the fire area, with a high temperature of 97. The minimum humidity will be 16 percent. Winds will be south to southwest 5-10 with 20 mph gusts.

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.**