



Consalus Fire

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

<https://tinyurl.com/consalusfire>

July 22, 2023



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

Start Date: 6/30/2023 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 467 acres **Containment:** 30% **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, 7 Water Tenders, Ambulance, REMs

Containment on the fire has increased to 30%. Currently, the biggest threat to the firelines is falling trees carrying heat or spreading sparks as they fall, causing fire outside the lines. The Unmanned Aerial System (drone) conducts infrared flights every morning, checking for hot spots outside the lines so firefighters can address them immediately. Sawyers continue to deal with the trees as they fall.

Heavy equipment operators and hand crews are working on contingency lines around the fire in case it gets outside the primary lines. Firefighters are also patrolling and securing the direct line where it's safe, cooling the fire's edge and keeping sprinkler systems running. A night shift will continue monitoring and patrolling for a few more days.

Both spot fires reported last week are holding, with edges secured.

Forest Service Road (FSR) #659 improvements are being made to allow better travel access for crews and equipment. Fire managers are also considering using FSR #659 as a contingency line.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

More than one weather disturbance will pass and increase westerly winds over the weekend into early next week. Today's high temperature will be 96 degrees, with a minimum humidity of 19 percent. Winds will be southwest 5-10 mph.

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.**