 INCIDENT COMMANDER: Kevin Barger ICT3

Graydon Galloway ICT3 (t)

**Midnight Fire**

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest

Salmon River Ranger District

Fire Information Line - 208-935-6134

**July 18, 2023**

Location: Forest Service Road (FSR) #284 (Elk City Wagon Road) 1 mile east of China Point, 3 miles Northwest of Pilot Knob near Mountain House Site

Start Date: 7/10/23 Cause: Lightning Size: 179 acres Completion/Containment: 10%

Total Personnel: 126 Engines: 3 Tactical Water Tenders Dozers: 2 Helicopters: 1

Retardant Tankers: As Needed Hand Crews: 4 on scene including 2 Interagency Hotshot Crews

CURRENT SITUATION

A local Type 3 Incident Command Team has assumed command of this fire as of Thursday, July 13. Heavy firefighting traffic is still expected to continue through the week on Forest Service Roads (FSR) #244, #284, and #1852 as more resources arrive and continue to contribute to the suppression efforts. A fire camp is now established near McComas Meadows (Camp 58) to support the ongoing suppression efforts.

**PLANNED ACTIONS**

Direct attack, full suppression, continue with hand line on eastern and western sides of the fire and continue opening and assessment of existing road and trail systems for heavy equipment use.

**WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR**

An isolated shower or thunderstorm may occur with the passing front but with very little rainfall. Minimum relative humidity will continue to be fairly dry behind the front but temperatures will be cooler compared to Sunday. Fire behavior is moderate with torching, group torching, and creeping. Fire continues to spread to the southeast but could change with weather conditions

**CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES**

There are currently no closures in place, but firefighting traffic is expected to be heavy along FSR # 244 (Lighting Creek Road) and FSR# 284 (Elk City Wagon Road) between China Point and Lytle Cow Camp while suppression operations are taking place, Fire Management Officials urge the traveling public to please avoid this area both on the ground and in the air. There is a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) in place over the Midnight Fire area for the safety of the aviation resources on scene.