 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

<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/idncf-midnight-fire>

**July 23, 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: 25%

Total Personnel: 212 Engines: 3 Wildland Engines and 4 Tactical Water Tenders Dozers: 2 Forest Masticators: 2 Helicopters: 1 Retardant Tankers: As Needed Hand Crews: 6 on scene including 3 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 still 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**

High pressure will keep conditions hot and dry through the rest of the weekend, along with strong thermal belts. A ridge breakdown will occur Monday afternoon as a dry cold front moves through the area. Expect slightly cooler max temperatures, and slightly higher humidity. Expect an increase in west to northwest winds sustained upwards of 15 mph and gusts slightly higher. Fire behavior is moderate with torching, group torching, and creeping. Fire growth has been minimal over the last few days 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.