 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 24, 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: 190 Engines: 3 Wildland Engines and 4 Tactical Water Tenders Dozers: 2 Forest Masticators: 2 Helicopters: 1 Retardant Tankers: As Needed Hand Crews: 5 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,# 1852,#1853, #1855 and #1852 as resources continue to contribute to the suppression and contingency line 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**

The ridge of high pressure will begin to breakdown during the day Monday, as a mostly dry cold front moves through the region. The timing of the frontal passage is expected to be around 1000-1200PM local. Southwesterly winds will begin to increase around that time and peak gusts of around 25 mph will be from noon to around 1700 local. Tuesday will be slightly cooler, and will have slightly higher humidity, but westerly winds will remain elevated for most of the day. 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.