



Ridge Creek Fire



Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District
Fire Information 208-953-7022
2023.ridgecreek@firenet.gov

<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/idipf-ridge-creek>

August 23, 2023

Location: Approximately 3.5 miles east of the north tip of Hayden Lake, along the Hayden Creek Road (Forest Service Road 437) from the Ridge Creek drainage to South Chilco Mountain.

Start Date: 8/3/2023 **Cause:** Human/Under Investigation **Size:** 4,293 acres **Containment:** 15%
Total Personnel: 545 **Heavy Equipment:** 19 **Engines:** 22 **Crews:** 15

The Kootenai County Office of Emergency Management evacuation status has been lifted for Hayden Lake and remains the same for the Bunco area (SET or Level 2). More information is available at <https://www.kcsheriff.com/186/Emergency-Management>.

FIRE STATUS

Yesterday, firefighters continued to mop-up along the southern and southwestern edges of the fire. Due to inclement weather, crews took time to rehabilitate equipment in preparation for today's operations. The east side of the fire received less precipitation, so crews were able to continue constructing indirect line along Forest Service Road 437. Lighter rain on the northern part of the fire allowed firefighters to use heavy equipment to improve Forest Service Road 406, giving them better access to the fire. The western side of the fire received the most rain. There, crews continued to monitor the fire and maintain equipment. Structure protection continued to triage residences and other buildings in the Bunco Road area for future planning. They also rehabilitated pumps and equipment. The night shift observed little fire activity as they continued to patrol and monitor the fire's perimeter along the west, south and east.

Today, hand crews will continue to build fireline from Forest Service Road 406 at Sage Creek Saddle toward Bunco Road near Trapper Creek. A drying trend will allow firefighters to continue improving containment lines and tying firebreaks together.

The Hudlow basecamp continues to provide staff with timely, efficient access to the eastern part of the fire.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Yesterday, most of the Ridge Creek Fire received between 0.1 to 0.75 inch of rain. Today, dry, cool, breezy conditions will prevail as relative humidity falls into the upper 30s. Higher relative humidity is predicted in sheltered areas due to recent precipitation. Southwesterly wind gusts up to 22 mph are possible. As the week progresses, a warming drying trend will bring warmer temperatures and lower relative humidity.

Minimal fire activity is expected today, although isolated smoke or smoldering are possible. Smoke from other fires in the region and Canada may be visible. Air quality information is available at www.airnow.gov and www.wildlandfiresmoke.net.

EVACUATION STATUS - NEW

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CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

A 24-hour temporary flight restriction remains in place https://tfr.faa.gov/save_pages/detail_3_3347.html

Clear skies will provide suitable conditions for aircraft activity if needed.

The Coeur d'Alene Dispatch Zone has issued Stage II Fire Restrictions for the Idaho panhandle, including Kootenai County.

The Idaho Panhandle National Forest issued an expanded Closure Order #01-04-03-23-003 yesterday for Forest Service land north of Forest Service Road (FSR) 206, west of FSR 209 and FSR 385, and south of FSR 332; and for Forest Service land surrounding and north of the Yellowbanks Creek area and west of FSR 1535.

The closure includes all Forest Service Roads within the area:

- FSR 332, 385, 392, 428A, 437, 1507, 1511, 1530, 1552 and 1587.
- FSR 206 north of the junction with FSR 406.
- FSR 406 north of the junction with FSR 206.
- Bunco Road/FSR 332 from National Forest boundary east* to the junction of FSR 385. *Corrected from previous version that mistakenly read "on the east."
- FSR 385 from junction with Bunco Road/FSR 332 south to the junction of FSR 209 and FSR 794.

It also includes Forest Services Trails 69, 78, 234, 577 and 802.

This order is necessary for public and firefighter safety due to heavy fire traffic and equipment in the area.

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