



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 26, 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:** Undetermined **Size:** 4,358 acres **Containment:** 32%
Total Personnel: 547 **Heavy Equipment:** 20 **Engines:** 17 **Crews:** 16

FIRE STATUS

Firefighters continue to make progress on all divisions of the fire. On the east side of the fire, hand crews in conjunction with heavy equipment work to improve roads and shore up fuel breaks in case of increased fire activity. To the north, firefighters continue to improve current lines and are progressing along the Bunco Road towards industrial and private lands. Crews on the western flank of the fire are finalizing contingency lines and working to secure fire lines moving to the south looking for safe opportunities to access hot areas. Firefighters also have established fuel breaks to prevent fire spread on this side of the fire. In the southeast, firefighters continue to secure the fire line and move toward patrol status. The structure protection group is still engaged with local cooperators to prepare for future wildfires in the Bunco and Hayden Lake communities. As always, tactics will be adjusted based on work progress.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Unseasonable temperatures and lower humidities arrive today. Temperatures are expected to be 5-10 degrees warmer and humidity is expected to be 5-10% drier. Fortunately, only light, largely terrain driven winds are expected. This weather has the potential to encourage more smoldering and creeping fire behavior. Isolated smoke will be visible in the area.

Air quality information is available at www.airnow.gov and www.wildlandfiresmoke.net.

EVACUATION STATUS

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

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

A daylight hours temporary flight restriction remains in place
https://tfr.faa.gov/save_pages/detail_3_3347.html

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

Closure Order #01-04-03-23-003 for the Idaho Panhandle National Forest remains in place 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.
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- Bunco Road/FSR 332 from National Forest boundary east to the junction of FSR 385.
- FSR 385 from junction with Bunco Road/FSR 332 south to the junction of FSR 209 and FSR 794.

It also includes Forest Service 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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