



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 27, 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:** 4,359 acres **Containment:** 32%

Total Personnel: 512 **Heavy Equipment:** 20 **Engines:** 16 **Crews:** 14

A Ridge Creek Fire virtual community briefing will take place on Facebook Live today at 3 p.m. Please join us for the live event on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/USFESIPNF> or check back later in the day to watch the recording.

FIRE STATUS

Firefighters continue to meet objectives and contain the Ridge Creek Fire. Resources in the southern division continue to hold and improve the primary line, as well as mop up. They are also using information from the overnight infrared flight to find heat and extinguish it. The division expects to move into patrol status in the near future.

On the eastern flank, hand crews are working in conjunction with heavy equipment to improve roads and shore up fuel breaks in case fire activity picks up. Physical resources are being inventoried.

Most of the planned mastication work on the north end of the fire has been completed and crews have transitioned into chipping operations. Firefighters are working to identify ridges and roads for possible direct fire line construction. If it is safe and weather conditions allow, crews may do some selective direct attack on the fire.

Resources have completed dozer line on the fire's northwest edge. This will provide a fuel break to limit fire spread in this area.

Containment lines are complete on the southwest flank. Resources are seeking opportunities to access and extinguish areas of heat in the fire's interior and finalize contingency lines.

Structure protection continues structure triage with local cooperators in the Bunco Road community.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

A strong warming and drying trend continues in the region. Temperatures approaching or surpassing 90 degrees are expected with humidity dipping into the teens. Light winds are forecast. No precipitation is

expected in the fire area over the next two days. Smoldering and creeping fire behavior is anticipated, though an isolated single tree torching may be visible. Fire growth should be modest.

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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