



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 28, 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: 471 **Heavy Equipment:** 19 **Engines:** 16 **Crews:** 13

FIRE STATUS

Firefighters continue efforts on both primary containment lines and contingency lines on the Ridge Creek Fire. Little fire growth occurred yesterday. Last night's infrared flight provided information on heat sources. Resources in all divisions will seek and extinguish these heat signatures.

On the eastern side of the fire, crews continue indirect line work on Forest Service Roads 437 and 1507. Road and line improvement efforts continue as the division moves toward patrol status. Multiple resources remain in the area to ensure that mitigation measures are in place as smoldering and creeping fire behavior persists.

To the north, where steep and rocky terrain present challenges, resources work to identify ridges and roads to use in more direct fire line construction. Firefighters have completed handline on Forest Service Road 406 M where fire has backed down to the dozer line. On Bunco Road, chipping operations are nearly complete.

Firefighters have established fireline on the west side of the fire to prevent its spread. Mechanical treatment and hand crews are snagging hazard trees and chipping on the south end of Forest Service Road 625 and grading and repairing dozer line on Forest Service Road 206. Division resources expect to finalize contingency lines here in the near future.

Aviation resources continue to assist firefighters on the ground. Helicopters are making water drops in key areas to reduce heat and extinguish fire where needed.

The structure protection group is working with local cooperators in the Trapper's Creek and Bunco Road communities to monitor fire conditions.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Yesterday was warmer and drier than predicted. Today's forecast calls for little to no cloud cover, maximum temperatures in the 90s at 4000 feet, zero chance of rain and low humidity. These combined conditions have the potential to increase fire behavior. Fire potential is greater today than it has been during the last several days.

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

EVACUATION STATUS—UNCHANGED

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—UNCHANGED

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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