



# Ridge Creek Fire



Idaho Panhandle National Forests  
Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District

Fire Information 208-953-7022

[2023.ridgecreek@firenet.gov](mailto:2023.ridgecreek@firenet.gov)

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

<https://www.facebook.com/USFSIPNF/>

**August 29, 2023**

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**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 caused    **Size:** 4,369 acres    **Containment:** 35%

**Total Personnel:** 466    **Heavy Equipment:** 18    **Engines:** 15    **Crews:** 13

**The "Set" notification (level 2) evacuation status has been lowered for BUNCO AREA RESIDENTS to "Ready" (level 1). This would not have been possible without the tremendous work done by firefighters who continue to manage the fire. This status will continue to be reassessed.**

**Please continue to monitor official sources for the most up to date information.**

**<https://www.kcsheriff.com/186/Emergency-Management>**

## **FIRE STATUS**

The Ridge Creek Fire was reported on 8/3/23 at 2:30 PM, and is burning in the Ridge Creek drainage, approximately three miles east of the northern tip of Hayden Lake. Investigators have determined that the fire was human-caused.

Firefighters will work to construct, improve and mop up fire lines this morning and prepare for stormy weather this afternoon. They will continue to make significant progress with suppression, including beginning repairs to roads and other features damaged by fire suppression on all sides of the fire.

Overall, fire lines are holding, with isolated heat remaining in the interior. Firefighters continue to mop up, using water to extinguish hot spots near the perimeter. Crews patrol daily to check for heat that may pose a threat to the line.

Fire personnel continue to strengthen indirect fire lines on the southeast portion of the fire along Roads 437 and 1507. Masticators and graders continue work on the 385 Road.

Handline and dozer line is complete on the 406M Road, where yesterday firefighters ignited unburned vegetation in a tactical firing operation to strengthen containment. Helicopters and bulldozers supported firefighters during the successful operation and the containment line held. Chipping operations continue along Bunco Road.

To the southwest, resources gridded the fire area to extinguish hot spots. Firefighters continue to improve contingency fire lines. Grader work continues on the 206 Road as well as snagging trees and chipping on the 625 Road. Backhaul of equipment such as pumps and hoses and suppression repair are underway.

Structure protection continues in the Nunn Road, Bunco Road and Hayden Lake communities.

## **WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR**

Humidity recovered poorly overnight, leading to a dry start to the day, with temperatures as warm as 70 degrees at 4000 feet this morning. Highs will be near 85 degrees and minimum relative humidity around 20 percent. Showers and thunderstorms are expected to reach the incident in the afternoon. Heavy rain is anticipated and will persist into the overnight hours. Storms have the potential to be severe with gusty outflow winds, small hail and lightning all possible. Winds are forecast to be 16-20 mph with gusts up to 30 mph. Winds are expected to continue overnight. A Flood Watch is in effect Tuesday afternoon through Wednesday afternoon in Kootenai County and much of northern Idaho.

Air quality information is available at [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov) and [www.wildlandfiresmoke.net](http://www.wildlandfiresmoke.net).

## **CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES — CHANGED**

**The Coeur d'Alene Dispatch Zone has reduced Fire Restrictions to Stage 1 for the Idaho Panhandle, including Kootenai County that begin at 12:01am on 8/30/23.**

A daylight hours temporary flight restriction remains in place  
[https://tfr.faa.gov/save\\_pages/detail\\_3\\_3347.html](https://tfr.faa.gov/save_pages/detail_3_3347.html)

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.
- FSR 406 north of the junction with FSR 206.
- 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. For more information please see the Idaho Panhandle National Forest website at [Idaho Panhandle National Forests - Alerts & Notices \(usda.gov\)](https://www.idahopanhandleforests.gov/alerts-notices)

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