



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>

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

August 30, 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-caused

Size: 4,474 acres

Containment: 45%

Total Personnel: 428 **Heavy Equipment:** 19

Engines: 15

Crews: 11

The "Ready" notification (level 1) evacuation status remains in effect for RESIDENTS IN THE BUNCO AREA. This status will continue to be reassessed. Please 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 continue to improve and mop up fire lines today as weather permits. Significant rainfall and cooler temperatures will help firefighting efforts for several days. As weather permits, repairs to roads and other features damaged by fire suppression on all sides of the fire will continue.

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 continue to patrol, checking for heat that may threaten 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, and a chipping operation continues 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. Initial attack firefighters are available to respond to any new starts in the surrounding area.

FIRE STATISTICS

As of 8/29/2023, the perimeter of the Ridge Creek fire is 22.3 miles, with 10.5 miles considered contained. Crews have completed 39.4 miles of direct and indirect fire lines. Air resources have dropped 270,000 gallons of water and 143,000 gallons of retardant.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Significant precipitation was observed in and around the fire area during the overnight hours. In some areas, as much as .70 inches of rain fell. The potential for continued rainfall is expected for the next several days. Live and dead vegetation is expected to be wet and unable to support any significant fire activity. No noteworthy fire spread or growth is anticipated due to cool and cloudy weather for the next few days.

Temperatures are expected to be a high of 59 and a low of 54, and winds are forecast to be 12-20 mph with gusts up to 20 mph. Relative humidity is expected to be 58-63%. 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 and www.wildlandfiresmoke.net.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES — CHANGED

Today the Coeur d'Alene Dispatch Zone reduced Fire Restrictions to Stage 1 for the Idaho Panhandle, including Kootenai County.

A daylight hours temporary flight restriction remains in place but was reduced today. Information is available at 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 \(usda.gov\)](http://IdahoPanhandleNationalForests-Alerts&Notices.usda.gov)

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