



INCIDENT COMMANDER: Daren Turner - ICT3
Cody Crismore - ICT3(t)

Little Bear Fire

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest
Powell Ranger District

Fire Information Line - 208-935-6134

July 31, 2023

Location: Powell Ranger District- half mile northeast from Bear Mountain Lookout, about one mile south of Highway 12, and less than one and a half miles southeast from Jerry Johnson Campground

Start Date: 7/3/2023 **Cause:** Lightning **** Size:** 820-830 acres *** Completion of Objectives:** 15%
Total Personnel: 16 **Engines:** **Helicopters:** **Hand Crews:** 1 Wildland Fire Use Module

CURRENT SITUATION

Yesterday, the fire was slightly more active than it has been, given the drier weather conditions. Current estimates have put the fire growth around 50-60 acres. The Little Bear Fire was detected on July 3rd in steep and rugged terrain, with high density of snags from the Freezeout Fire that burned in 2012. As of July 31, the Little Bear fire is estimated to be around 820 acres to 830 acres, burning downhill and cleaning up dead, down logs that have fallen since the 2012 fire. Fuel reduction measures have been taken at Bear Mountain Lookout, and crews have set up structure protection around the area. Structure protection is in place around the Warm Springs pack-bridge. Firefighters continue to take further actions on the west side of the upper pack bridge to support structure protection objectives.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Temperatures will remain around low-90s to low-100s. Southwest winds will still occur today, but speeds will be a little less than yesterday (July 30, 2023). Relative humidities will be low, around the low-teens to low-20s. Thermal belts will strengthen, resulting in poor relative humidity recoveries each night through Wednesday night (August 2, 2023). Fire behavior has slightly increased, with flame lengths around 1-3 feet. Fire behavior could change depending on weather conditions.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

There is an official trail closure for National Forest Service Trail (NFST) #213 from McConnel Mountain Trail from its junction with Warm Springs Creek Trail #49 to the junction with the Bear Mountain Trail #21 or public safety due to the wildfire in the area. See attached map for official trail closure. Currently, there is no official closure of the Jerry Johnson Hot Springs area; however, fire managers advise that the public please avoid the area, if possible, due to the potential increase in fire behavior as a result of the continuing warmer and drier weather. Fire conditions can change rapidly- there is no infrastructure in place to notify trail-users if fire behavior increases.