



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

August 4, 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: 07/03/2023	Cause: Lightning	**Size: 1,646 acres	Completion of Objectives: 20%
Total Personnel: 16	Engines:	Helicopters:	Hand Crews: 1 Wildland Fire Use Module

CURRENT SITUATION

Due to weather conditions, an IR flight was not able to get updated acreage of the fire today. Fire behavior has decreased slightly over the last 24-hours, due to cooler temperatures and better overnight humidity recoveries. Current estimates remain at approximately 1,646 acres. The fire is still cleaning up dead, down logs that have fallen since the Freezeout Fire that burned in 2012. The Little Bear Fire was detected on July 3rd in steep and rugged terrain, with high density of snags from the 2012 fire. Structure protection is in place with a remote start pressure pump for sprinkler protection on Warm Springs Pack Bridge and fuel mitigation around Bear Mountain Lookout. Fire managers and personnel continue to assess the area for further protection measures.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

A surge of monsoonal moisture leading to showers and thunderstorms will impact central Idaho today through Monday (August 7, 2023). Brief periods of heavy rain from slow moving storms are possible. There is over an 80% chance of a wetting rain and a 50%-70% chance of amounts of a quarter of an inch over the next three days. This moist atmosphere will result in much higher relative humidities (20%-30% higher) and result in excellent relative humidity recoveries. Temperatures will trend 10-15 degrees cooler through Monday, then a gradual increase toward warmer temperatures and drier weather will start the middle of next week. Fire behavior has decreased slightly, with flame lengths around 1-3 feet.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

There are now official area and trail closures for the Warm Springs area. The closure includes the area generally following the land south of the Lochsa River within a quarter mile of the eastern shore of Warm Springs Creek, below the confluence with Cooperation Creek in Section 20. There are additional trail closures for the National Forest Service Trails (NFST) #49, Warm Springs Trail from its junction with Highway 12 to the junction with Trail #213; NFST #44, Cooperation Trail from its junction with the Warm Springs Trail #49 to the Top of the ridge approximately 6 miles East Southeast; and NFST #49-A, stock trail from its junction with the Cooperation Trail #44 to the junction with the Warm Springs Trail #49. See attached map for official area and trail closures.

Please be aware that the northeastern part of the fire may be visible from portions of Highway 12, and inversion-related smoke may impact Highway 12.