



Midnight Fire

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest
Salmon River Ranger District
Fire Information Line - 208-935-6134

<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/idncf-midnight-fire>

August 3, 2023

Location: Forest Service Road (FSR) #284 (Elk City Wagon Road) 1 mile east of China Point, 3 miles Northwest of Pilot Knob near Mountain House Site

Start Date: 7/10/23 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 179 acres **Completion/Containment:** 38%

Total Personnel: 160 **Engines:** 2 **Dozers:** 2 **Forest Masticators:** 4 **Helicopters:** 1
Water Tender: 6 **Crews:** 3

**Some forest resources are not counted in total personnel.*

CURRENT SITUATION

Firefighters continue to identify and work interior smokes and hotspots. Equipment work on the contingency line continues but remains slow due to terrain and vegetation. Crews and equipment work, to remove available fuel from the fire by clearing brush and vegetation. As brush cures, there is greater potential for reburn to occur.

PLANNED ACTIONS

A full suppression strategy remains in place. Crews will work to protect nationally significant culture resources. Work will continue to utilize suppression strategies to protect the Highway 14 corridor, the adjacent vegetation treatment project areas, fish habitat, sensitive watershed, and Newsome townsite.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Thursday weather includes light northwest winds developing in the afternoon. There is a very low chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening. Showers and thunderstorms are predicted to return Friday afternoon. Fire behavior will slightly decrease with the increase in humidity.

Air quality information: [AirNow Interactive Map \(epa.gov\)](#)

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

Heavy equipment will continue traveling on roads throughout the Midnight Fire area. When driving dirt roads with low visibility, the rule of thumb is pull over and allow the downhill driver to pass. There are currently no closures in place, but firefighting traffic is expected to be heavy along FSR #244 (Lightning Creek Road) and FSR #284 (Elk City Wagon Road) between China Point and Lytle Cow Camp. Plan to take extra time to reach your destination, drive slowly to stay safe.

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