



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 4, 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: 150 **Engines:** 2 **Dozers:** 2 **Forest Masticators:** 4 **Helicopters:** 1
Water Tender: 5 **Crews:** 3

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

CURRENT SITUATION

Equipment crews continue improving and constructing indirect fuel breaks by clearing dead and down vegetation. Fire personnel will continue scouting for smoke, embers, and creeping. Throughout the fire, hand crews are continuing to support the suppression efforts. Strategically placed hose has been positioned around the fire and interior. Dust on the roads slows equipment moving and support personnel. Water Tenders are helping to reduce dust on heavily utilized roads, prepared to stop with narrow roads and low visibility.

PLANNED ACTIONS

Full suppression strategy to keep the fire in the smallest footprint possible. Crews will work to protect nationally significant culture resources. Work will continue suppression strategies to protect Highway 14 corridor, the adjacent vegetation treatment project areas, fish habitat, sensitive watershed, and Newsome townsite.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Changes begin on Friday as temperatures cool slightly with improved minimum relative humidity and overnight relative humidity recovery compared to Thursday. Shower and thunderstorm chances increase by late on Friday with periods of showers and thunderstorms through early next week. The probability of 0.25" or greater rainfall Friday through Sunday is 50-60%. Winds will be light, and terrain driven. Fire Behavior remains minimal with no growth.

AIR QUALITY INFORMATION

Smoke is moving in from various fires in the region. For more information on air quality, visit www.airnow.gov

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

There are currently no closures in place. The Peasley Creek Drainage Road is open; however, motorists are encouraged to avoid the road if possible due to heavy traffic and dust. 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. Reduce speed and turn your headlights on for safety.

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