



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 2, 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: 125 **Engines:** 2 **Dozers:** 2 **Forest Masticators:** 2 **Helicopters:** 1
Water Tender: 6 **Crews:** 3

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

CURRENT SITUATION

Firefighters were able to increase the percentage of containment to 38% completed, which is a 13% increase. Equipment work continues but due to terrain and thick vegetation, the process is slow. Firefighter and public safety remain the highest priority on the Midnight Fire.

PLANNED ACTIONS

Firefighters will utilize minimum impact suppression tactics to reduce impacts of fire management on infrastructure cultural and natural resources. A combination of crews and equipment will work a full suppression strategy to contain and confine the incident within the Silver Creek drainage. Work continues along the contingency line as the goal remains to maintain the fire within the footprint and produce the least possible impacts on resources.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Afternoon humidity and wind conditions are expected to be similar both today and tomorrow. There is a very low chance of a thunderstorm this afternoon however wetting rain is unlikely. Fire behavior is expected to remain the same, unless conditions align with fuels, heat, and wind in which case more single and group tree torching could occur.

Looking further out, models predict increasing thunderstorm activity and increasing humidity is expected Friday through Sunday. Relatively dry high pressure is set to return next week.

Air quality information: [AirNow Interactive Map \(epa.gov\)](https://www.airnow.gov/)

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

Forest service roads are extremely dusty, and traffic creates heavy dust clouds. Utilize your headlights and fog lights if available and reduce your speed when driving on dirt roads. Throughout the day, large equipment will continue to enter roads, plan to drive slowly to stay safe. 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.

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