West Fork Fire

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest
Powell Ranger District

Fire Information Line - 208-935-6134

August 13, 2023

Location: Powell Ranger District- two and a half miles south of Howard Camp and a little less than a mile and a half northeast from Highway 12

Start Date: 07/17/2023	**Cause:** Lightning	****Size:** 372 acres	**Completion of Objectives:** 20%
Total Personnel: 3	**Engines:**	**Helicopters:**	**Hand Crews:**

CURRENT SITUATION

The West Fork Fire was started by lightning on July 17, 2023 around 7:00 PM, and is about two and a half miles south from Howard Camp. The fire is approximately 372 acres, burning in dead and down fuels.

More information will be provided as it becomes available.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

A warming and drying trend will continue through mid-week with very poor relative humidity recoveries Monday through Wednesday morning. Dangerously hot conditions are expected for the western districts of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest August 15, 2023 through August 17, 2023. Maximum temperatures will reach the low-100s to 105 degrees in the valley and around the low-90s on the ridgetops. The fire has active areas of heat and smoke showing more interior of the fire's perimeter.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

There is an official road closure. A road closure is in effect for National Forest Service Road (NFSR) #500, Lolo Motorway, from its junction with Horseshoe Lake Road (NFSR #588) to the junction with Doe Creek Road (NFSR #566), due to the West Fork Fire activity near the vicinity of the road. The closure is in place to protect the health and safety of the public.

Fire management recommends a detour route: take Doe Creek Road (NFSR #566), from the intersection of the Lolo Motorway (NFSR #500) and the NFSR #566, down to Highway 12, and then progress westbound on Highway 12 to Saddle Camp Road (NFSR #107) to regain the rest of the Lolo Motorway.

Please be aware that inversion-related smoke could impact Highway 12 if there is an increase in fire behavior.