



Ridge Creek Fire

Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District
North Idaho Type 3 Incident Management Team
Fire Information 208-953-7022
2023.ridgecreek@firenet.gov

<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/idipf-ridge-creek>
<https://www.facebook.com/USFSIPNF/>

September 4, 2023

Location: Approximately 3.5 miles east of the north tip of Hayden Lake, along the Hayden Creek Road (Forest Service Road 437) from the Ridge Creek drainage to South Chilco Mountain.

Start Date: 8/3/2023 **Cause:** Human-caused **Size:** 4,474 acres **Containment:** 51%
Total Personnel: 163 **Crews:** 3 **Pieces of Equipment:** 15-this includes a processor, log truck, loaders, excavators, dozers, skidders, feller bunchers and 3 chippers.

John Heyn's North Idaho Type 3 Team took command of the Ridge Creek Fire from the Southern Area Gold Team on September 3, 2023, at 6:00pm.

The North Idaho Team, Idaho Department of Lands and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest thank the Southern Gold and Eastern Silver Teams for their support of fire suppression efforts. With the transition to the North Idaho Team, the incident command post has moved from Farragut State Park to the Kootenai County Office of Emergency Management.

All fire restrictions have been lifted for the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. While campfires are no longer restricted, hunters and recreationists are urged to continue to use caution. Never leave a campfire unattended, and make sure it is cold to the touch before walking away. Please visit <https://www.idl.idaho.gov/fire-management/fire-restrictions-finder> for a detailed map and current information regarding fire restrictions across the state.

FIRE STATUS

With holiday traffic, motorists are advised to watch for firefighting equipment on the roadways.

Yesterday, the North Idaho Team shadowed the Southern Gold Team. Firefighters continue to mop up hot spots and repair handlines, while excavators, chippers, graders and dump trucks worked to repair dozer lines and roads. A few isolated hot spots remain that are located within the northern perimeter of the fire near South Chilco Mountain, which posed no threat to further spread. Specific areas of work included grading on USFS Road 1511 east of Spades Mountain, excavator work on the 406M Road, chipper work on the 625 and Bunco Roads and dump truck and front-end loader work to repair potholes on the 437 Road.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Today, will be mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and a high near 65. South winds will be around 10 mph. New precipitation amounts of less than a tenth of an inch is possible. Relative humidities will range from 50-70%.

Live and dead vegetation remains damp from recent rainfall and active flames are unlikely. Minimal fire behavior is expected as fuels remain wet, and conditions are not conducive to fire spread.

Air quality information is available at www.airnow.gov and www.wildlandfiresmoke.net.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

Kootenai County has lifted all evacuation notices. Please monitor official county sources for the most up-to-date information. <https://www.kcsheriff.com/186/Emergency-Management>

The temporary flight restriction for this area has been lifted.

Some road closure will change in the near future. This is the current closure:

Closure Order #01-04-03-23-003 for the Idaho Panhandle National Forest remains in place for Forest Service land north of Forest Service Road (FSR) 206, west of FSR 209 and FSR 385, and south of FSR 332; and for Forest Service land surrounding and north of the Yellowbanks Creek area and west of FSR 1535.

The closure includes all Forest Service Roads within the area:

- FSR 332, 385, 392, 428A, 437, 1507, 1511, 1530, 1552 and 1587.
- FSR 206 north of the junction with FSR 406.
- FSR 406 north of the junction with FSR 206.
- Bunco Road/FSR 332 from the National Forest boundary east to the junction of FSR 385.
- FSR 385 from the junction with Bunco Road/FSR 332 south to the junction of FSR 209 and FSR 794.

It also includes Forest Service Trails 69, 78, 234, 577 and 802.

This order is necessary for public and firefighter safety due to heavy fire traffic and equipment in the area. For more information, please see the Idaho Panhandle National Forest website at [Idaho Panhandle National Forests - Alerts & Notices \(usda.gov\)](http://IdahoPanhandleNationalForests-Alerts&Notices.usda.gov)

-END-