



Ridge Creek Fire

Idaho Panhandle National Forests

Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District

Fire Information 208-953-7022

2023.ridgecreek@firenet.gov

<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/idipf-ridge-creek>

<https://www.facebook.com/USFSIPNF/>

Saturday September 2, 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: 270 **Heavy Equipment:** 10

Engines: 6

Crews: 7

Note: 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.

With weekend traffic increasing, motorists are advised to watch for firefighting equipment as firefighters released from the incident travel home.

FIRE STATUS

The Ridge Creek Fire was reported on 8/3/23 at 2:30 pm in the Ridge Creek drainage, approximately three miles east of the northern tip of Hayden Lake. Investigators have determined that the fire was human-caused.

Yesterday, firefighters continued to monitor and patrol the fire's edge, mop up hot spots, chip along roads and make repairs to roads and other features damaged by fire suppression. A grader completed work on the 209 Road to Bumblebee Campground. The Hudlow Warming Hut spike camp has been broken down and removed. Firefighters removed pumps and hoses from an area burned out with tactical firing operations near Sage Creel Saddle as that area has been mopped up. Chipping operations increased in the Bunco Road area with the addition of another chipper.

Today's work focus is on suppression repair across the footprint of the fire area. According to Operations Section Chief Shawn Nagle, suppression repair work will "turn the fire area back to the way we found it".

Suppression repair includes removing brush along fire lines and chipping it and grading roads and installing water bars on them to prevent erosion. Completion of this work will allow opening of roads and areas to the public. Because opening roads on the northern side of the fire is a priority, three chippers and two crews will work along Bunco Road today. Air operations include removing temporary repeaters installed for firefighter communications.

To the southwest heavy equipment continues to work on the 206 Road, as well as chippers on the 625 Road. Initial attack firefighters continue to be available to respond to new fire starts in the surrounding area.

The Southern Area Gold Incident Management Team will transition to a local Type 3 Incident Management Team tomorrow.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

A slight warming trend is expected today and a slight chance of showers return to the area on Sunday. Temperatures are expected to be a high of near 77-82 degrees and a low near 55, and winds are forecast to be southwest 3-6 mph, increasing to west 8 to 12 mph after 10 am. Relative humidity is expected to be 33-38 percent.

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

“Only four heat signatures were seen on the IR [infrared] flight last night,” said Fire Behavior Analyst Kelly Cagle. “That’s pretty minimal.” Live and dead vegetation remains damp from recent rainfall and active flames are unlikely. With a drying trend, some areas of smoke may appear where built-up organic material or large logs smolder, especially in areas with remaining heat at the northeast portion of the fire.

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>

A daylight hours temporary flight restriction remains in place. Information is available at https://tfr.faa.gov/save_pages/detail_3_3347.html

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)

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