



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/>

Sunday September 3, 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: 183 **Heavy Equipment:** 5 **Crews:** 1

This is the last update from the Southern Area Gold Team. At 6:00 pm today, the Gold Team will transfer command of the fire to a smaller, local team. Thank you for supporting the Gold Team in managing this fire. We've enjoyed serving you and wish the incoming team a good and safe assignment.

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, 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, bulldozer and handlines and other features damaged by fire suppression. They monitored an isolated hot spot producing smoke within the fire near South Chilco Mountain, which posed no threat to further spread. All engines and crews demobilized from the fire, except for an initial attack crew ready to respond to new fires. Excavators, chippers, graders and dump trucks worked to repair bulldozer lines and roads. Specific areas of work included grading on the 206 Road from Bumblebee Campground to Burnt Cabin Creek, 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.

Today this work will continue as Operations overhead from a local Type 3 management team shadows Southern Area Gold Team Operations in preparation for transfer of command this evening.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

High temperatures will drop into the 60s today accompanied by breezy winds and the chance of showers. Starting Tuesday, a gradual warming and drying trend will set in, and this pattern will continue throughout the week. Each day expect afternoon winds to increase, particularly on ridges, but they should not reach levels of concern. The strongest winds of the forecast will be Wednesday with gusts to 19 mph.

High temperatures today are expected to be around 65 degrees with southwest winds 5-6 mph. Minimum relative humidity is expected to be around 55 percent.

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

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. Notable fire spread is not expected during the next five days.

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 today, **but will be lifted this evening at 7:00 pm**. 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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