

Fire Information: (360) 208-8075 Hours: 7 a.m.–7 p.m. Email: <u>2023.cowlitzcomplex@firenet.gov</u> InciWeb: <u>https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/wagpf-cowlitz-complex</u> Facebook: <u>Facebook/CowlitzComplex</u> Twitter: <u>https://twitter.com/GPNF</u> Gifford Pinchot National Forest: <u>https://www.fs.usda.gov/giffordpinchot</u>

Cowlitz Complex Fire Update

September 13, 2023

Current Situation: The Cowlitz Complex is 21% contained with a total of 672 acres and 281 personnel. The Grassy Mountain Fire produced smoke Tuesday, but there was no fire movement. Crews continue to create indirect lines to keep the fire in its current footprint. A similar effort is underway at the Snagtooth and Spencer Quartz fires. The Jackpot and Adams Fork fires are in the "mop-up" phase which is the process of extinguishing any hot spots that may reignite.

Weather: Rain fell over the complex Tuesday, but not enough to impact fire behavior. Thursday will be warmer and drier, with less cloud cover. Highs in the mid-80s are possible Friday which could increase fire activity.

Hunting Safety: There are multiple wildfires in the area and wildland firefighters are actively working. Be on the lookout for crews as well as firefighting equipment. Clearly identify your target before shooting. Prevent unfortunate accidents or fatalities. <u>Hunting Safety Tips</u>.

Background: There are 30 fires in the complex. The fires started August 25 after a lightning event across the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Maintaining the level of firefighting resources, dedication to safety, and keeping fires in their current footprint remain priorities, as well as continuing to be ready for any new fire starts or spread.

Fire Restrictions: Fire Restrictions remain in effect. Campfires are prohibited across the Gifford Pinchot National Forest – only propane-fueled fire pits, stoves and lanterns are allowed. Additional information is available on the forest's website at <u>Gifford Pinchot National Forest - Fire Management (usda.gov)</u>. The decision to lift or maintain fire restrictions depends on factors such as current and expected weather conditions, fuel moisture, the level of fire activity, and the availability of firefighting resources to respond to additional ignitions.

Closures: In anticipation of ongoing fire activity in the vicinity of the Snagtooth Fire the following roads and trails are closed to the public to reduce exposure and help ensure public and firefighter safety: Forest Roads 9300 and 9341, Boundary Trail #1 (from Elk Pass to intersection with Summit Prairie), Summit Prairie #2, Craggy Peak #3, Snagtooth #4, Quartz #5, Stabler Camp #17, Wright Meadows #80, Basin Camp #3A, Quartz #5B, Quartz #5C (French Creek), Snyder Pasture #80A. Forest Road 8410 is closed for firefighter and public safety in the vicinity of the Pothole Fire, and Forest Road 78 is temporarily closed between the 7802 junction and the 2278 junction due to hazardous debris rolling out onto the roadway.

Temporary Flight Restrictions: Two TFRs are in effect, one located north of US-12 to Mount Rainier National Park, and a new TFR south of US-12 to include Snagtooth and Spencer Quartz fires. Fire aviation response is halted or delayed if an unauthorized aircraft enters the TFR. Temporary flight restrictions also apply to unmanned aircraft systems or drones. Learn more: <u>Know Before You Fly</u>.