



# Smoke Outlook

## North Central Idaho / SW Montana

# 8/22 - 8/23

Issued by [Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program](#) on August 22, 2024 at 08:55 AM MDT

### Special Statement

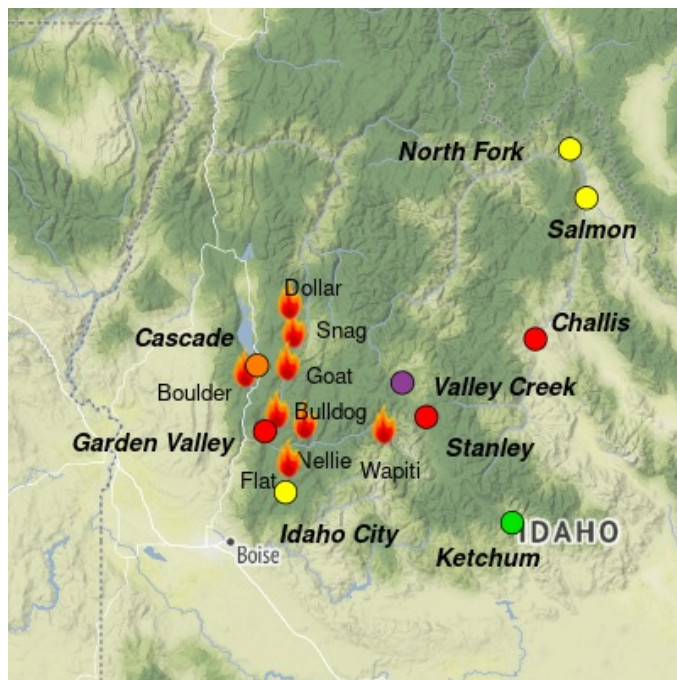
AIR QUALITY ALERT until at least 3 PM Friday. RED FLAG WARNING until 9 PM Thursday.

### Fire

The **Middle Fork Complex** totals 31,087 acres. The **Wapiti Fire** is at 17,520 acres, and the **Flat Fire** is at 3,664 acres. Today is a critical fire weather day. Group torching, spotting, and continued large fire growth is possible with potential pyro-cumulus development.

### Smoke

Periods of HAZARDOUS air quality will continue in locations within the immediate vicinity of active fire. Communities that experience VERY UNHEALTHY to HAZARDOUS air quality should take immediate action to reduce smoke exposure. Heaviest smoke impacts are expected in valleys and low-lying areas; smoke levels build overnight, peak mid-morning, and decrease with afternoon mixing. Along the South Fork of the Payette from Crouch to Garden Valley, Grimes Pass to Lowman, along HWY-21 to Banner Creek Pass and northern Stanley, will have heaviest smoke impacts. HWY-75 to Challis will experience moderate-to-heavy smoke impacts. By this weekend, a weather shift should decrease the potential for new significant smoke production.



Daily AQI Forecast\* for Thursday

Station	Yesterday	Wed	Comment for Today -- Thu, Aug 22	Forecast*	
	hourly	8/21		Thu 8/22	Fri 8/23
Cascade			USG overall today with		
Idaho City			GOOD air quality with periods of disperse smoke midday.		
Garden Valley			HAZARDOUS air quality mid-morning until mid-afternoon, clearing by evening.		
Stanley			Increasing smoke impacts across the valley, UNHEALTHY to USG expected.		
Ketchum			GOOD overall, haze aloft and distant smoke plumes visible.		
Valley Creek	No hourly data		UNHEALTHY to V UNHEALTHY, peaking overnight into morning and late evening.		
Challis	No hourly data		UNHEALTHY to USG, peaking evening into overnight hours.		
Salmon			MODERATE air quality in the AM, afternoon haze and smoke building overnight.		
North Fork			GOOD to MODERATE AQ expected, haze aloft.		

Issued Aug 22, 2024 by Amber Ortega - [amber.ortega@usda.gov](mailto:amber.ortega@usda.gov)

Air Quality Index (AQI)	Actions to Protect Yourself
Good	None
Moderate	Unusually sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged or heavy exertion.
USG	People within Sensitive Groups* should <b>reduce</b> prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.
Unhealthy	People within Sensitive Groups* should <b>avoid all</b> physical outdoor activity.
Very Unhealthy	Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
Hazardous	Everyone should avoid any outdoor activity.

**\*Disclaimer:** This forecast is based on fine particulates only; ozone is not included. Forecasts may be wrong; use at own risk. Use caution as conditions can change quickly. See your health professional as needed. Smoke sensitive groups should take appropriate precautions.

### Additional Links

**Middle Fork Complex (Bulldog, Nellie)** -- <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/idbof-middle-fork-complex-fire-bulldog-nellie-anderson>  
**Flat Fire** -- <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/idids-2024-flat>

**Wapiti Fire** -- <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/idbof-wapiti-fire>  
**IDEQ Smoke Blog** -- <https://idsmoke.blogspot.com/>



Issued by Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program -- [www.wildlandfiresmoke.net](http://www.wildlandfiresmoke.net)  
North Central Idaho / SW Montana Updates -- <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/098b2cf8>  
\*Smoke and Health Info -- [www.airnow.gov/air-quality-and-health](http://www.airnow.gov/air-quality-and-health)