



# WEST MOUNTAIN COMPLEX Wapiti and Bulltrout Fire Updates

August 4, 2024

Fire Information Phone Line 208-462-0345 (8am-8pm)

[2024.Wapiti@firenet.gov](mailto:2024.Wapiti@firenet.gov) / [2024.Bulltrout@firenet.gov](mailto:2024.Bulltrout@firenet.gov)

**Summary:** The Wapiti and Bulltrout fires resulted from a lightning storm on Wednesday, July 24, 2024. On July 31<sup>st</sup> an incident management team was delegated the West Mountain Complex which includes the Boulder, Wapiti and Bulltrout Fires on the Boise National Forest and the Wolf Creek Fire on the Payette National Forest. A full suppression strategy is being utilized on these lightning-caused fires. Firefighter and public safety remain the top priority for fire managers.

**Weather | Anticipated Fire Behavior:** A weather system with monsoonal moisture moved into the area last evening with thunderstorms, lightning and erratic outflow winds. These storms will linger through the morning and increase humidities. This weather can increase fire behavior and will test existing control lines. Despite any short-term increase in moisture in the area, hot and dry weather conditions continue to cure both live and dead fuels across the landscape.

**Actions:** Resources are identified and prepared for initial attack. Aircraft will be ready to support firefighters on the ground on any new fires.

**Wapiti Fire:** Fire activity increased on the west and northwest flanks of the fire yesterday. Firefighters on the east and northeast portions of the fire also encountered increased activity which made it impossible for them to directly attack the fire. They relied instead on a confine and point protection strategy around the Wapiti summer homes and the Bear Creek and Camp Creek neighborhoods. This strategy will continue with water handling equipment in place.

**Bulltrout Fire:** The Bull Trout Fire continues to burn in steep terrain with areas of heavy dead and down fuel loading. Increased containment was achieved on the eastern side of the fire yesterday. Today mopping up and management of hazard trees continues on the northwest side of the fire. The Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) will be lifted over the fire area today.

**Important Information:** For the Wapiti Fire, the Boise and Sawtooth National Forests have issued a closure order for roads, trails and lands encompassing the Wapiti Fire. The closure was enacted to protect public safety and support fire suppression activities. The closure affects interior travel on several National Forest

To receive email updates please contact the email address above.

Quick Facts	
Fire Location	Wapiti: 2 miles SE of Grandjean Bulltrout: 35 miles NE of Lowman
Size	Wapiti: 86 acres Bulltrout: 292 acres
Containment	Wapiti: 0% Bulltrout: 15%
Personnel	Wapiti: 102 Bulltrout: 44
Start Date	Wapiti: 7/24/2024 Bulltrout: 7/25/2024
Cause	Lightning
Incident Commander	Mike Johnston, Great Basin Complex Incident Management Team #7
Online Links	
InciWeb:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/idbof-wapiti-fire">https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/idbof-wapiti-fire</a></li> <li><a href="https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/idbof-bulltrout-fire">https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/idbof-bulltrout-fire</a></li> </ul>
Facebook:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.facebook.com/BoiseNationalForest">https://www.facebook.com/BoiseNationalForest</a></li> </ul>
Boise National Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/boise">https://www.fs.usda.gov/boise</a></li> </ul>
Idaho Department of Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.idl.idaho.gov/fire-management/">https://www.idl.idaho.gov/fire-management/</a></li> </ul>



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System roads such as NFS Grandjean Road #524 and the Warm Springs Air Strip. Additional information about these closures can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/2u8v3pf7>

For the Bulltrout Fire, the Boise and Salmon-Challis National Forests have issued a closure order for roads, trails and lands encompassing the Bulltrout Fire. The closure was enacted to protect public safety and support fire suppression activities. This closure includes National Forest System (NFS) Roads #579, #582 and several others. There are no disruptions in access to the Boundary Creek Boat Launch. NFS Road #579 is open in its entirety from Highway 21 to NFS Road #568 to the Boundary Creek Boat Launch. Risk to responders and public safety remain the highest priority for the incident management team. Additional information about these closures can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/2u8v3pf7>

The evacuation of the Grandjean area and the Sawtooth Lodge remains in place and the incident management team is in close coordination with the Boise County Sheriff's Office.

For timely information on evacuations, check out your county's emergency alert system. For Boise County, sign up for notifications from Alert Sense at: <https://public.alertsense.com/SignUp/?regionid=1163>.

Both fires are adjacent to Highway 21 which is a popular travel route in Central Idaho. With the influx of vehicles in the area from fire and support personnel, please use extreme caution when traveling along Highway 21 between Stanley and Lowman, to help ensure fire crews safety while working.

The Boise National Forest, Idaho Department of Lands, and Bureau of Land Management will begin Stage 1 fire restrictions on state, endowment, private and federal lands within the West Central Mountains Fire Restrictions Zone. **The restrictions go into effect at 12:01 a.m. on Aug. 5th.** For more information on the restrictions and a map visit: <https://www.idl.idaho.gov/fire-management/fire-restrictions-finder/>

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