




CLEARWATER FIRE UPDATE



Monday, August 05, 2024

Clearwater Fire Information: 307-213-9458 8am-8pm *Phone service coverage may be limited*
2024.clearwater@firenet.gov

Quick Facts	
Fire location:	11 miles West of Wapiti, Wyoming
Size:	1,786 Acres
Containment:	7%
Personnel:	110
Start Date:	7/19/2024
Cause:	Lightning
Incident Commander:	Ron Steffens, Wyoming Type 3
Online Links:	
Inciweb:	https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/wyshf-clearwater-fire
Shoshone National Forest:	http://www.fs.usda.gov/shoshone
Smoke and Air Quality:	Fire.airnow.gov
Wyo Roads:	www.wyoroad.info
Scan the QR Code for quick links to the Clearwater Fire:	
	

Summary: The Clearwater Fire started on Friday, July 19th, 2024, in the vicinity of the Elk Fork drainage. The location of the fire is in very steep and remote terrain that makes direct attack on the fire very difficult while ensuring firefighter safety. The fire cause was from lightning.

Fire crews completed work on the UXU Ranch with sprinkler instillation and fuel source reduction. Crews will begin installing additional burnout lines around the UXU Ranch and install sprinklers on the bridge to protect the decking.

Engines will patrol the highway corridor for any potential spot fires that could threaten the corridor, with aviation support as needed. In the coming days, moderated weather may slow fire growth, though gusty winds with thunderstorm outflows may also allow growth, particularly into the south end of the Elk Fork drainage.

The Wyoming Type 3, Team 3 transitioned to the Wyoming Type 3, Team 4 on Sunday August 4th. The Wyoming Type 3 teams are organized to manage mid-complexity and longer term fires and include staff from local, state and national organizations. Fire managers continue to take appropriate action based on a variety of factors including complexity, fire behavior and weather. Public and firefighter safety remains the number one priority.

Closures: Elk Fork Campground is closed indefinitely. Wapiti Campground, and Clearwater Campground are closed until fire conditions allow otherwise. These closures provide public safety and increased access for fire resources. A road and trail closure are in effect at NFS Road #424, Elk Fork Road and NFS Trail # 760, Elk Fork Trail. The purpose of this Order is to protect

human health and safety from the Clearwater fire. More information can be found:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/shoshone/alerts-notices/?cid=stelprdb5175892>

Weather | Anticipated Fire Behavior: The fire is burning on steep slopes in conifer forest, brush and dead and down logs. Temperatures are forecast to be cooler and relative humidities higher, which may result in less active spread, but gustier winds and thunderstorm outflow winds could drive more erratic fire behavior. There is a chance of monsoon moisture in the upcoming week.

Important Information: Managing the risk to responders and ensuring public safety remain the highest priority for the incident management team. The Clearwater fire has not been the only fire contributing to the smoke in the air. Smoke from fires in Canada as well as Idaho and the Northwest have been a steady influence across the area for many days. Use the link above for 'AirNow' to check current conditions and try to plan your outdoor activities when air quality is at a tolerable level.

The Shoshone National Forest has also implemented Stage 1 fire restrictions, due to the very dry conditions of fuels and the likely continued hot and dry weather. A copy of the order can be found at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/shoshone/alerts-notices>