




CLEARWATER FIRE UPDATE



Tuesday, August 06, 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:	1,800 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	
Wyoming Roads: www.wyoroad.info	
Scan the QR Code for quick links to the Clearwater Fire:	
	

Summary: Yesterday the fire experienced isolated torching and burning in brush and needles, with limited growth. Crews are improving current structure protection preparations and assessing additional opportunities for structure protection and potential control lines, in both the Elks Fork drainage and UXU Ranch area. Engines will continue to patrol the highway corridor, monitoring fire behavior and keeping an eye out for potential spot fires that could threaten the highway corridor. Engine crews are also assisted by helicopters and unmanned aerial systems (UAS) as needed.

Along the Highway Corridor, firefighters are “mopping up” along the burn area on the highway. This process has crew members extinguishing or removing burning material near the highway, down to the soil. Firefighters will also remove fire damaged trees to prevent falling or creating new fire starts.

In the coming days, moderated weather may slow fire growth, though gusty winds with thunderstorms may create growth, particularly along the currently active fire edge south of the Shoshone River and on the ridges west of the Elk Fork.

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. More information at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/shoshone/alerts-notice/?cid=stelprdb5175892>

Weather | Anticipated Fire Behavior: The fire is burning on steep slopes in conifer forest, brush and dead and down logs. Cooler temperatures are expected by Wednesday night. However, with upcoming cooler temperatures, there will be gusty winds and thunderstorms that may support short-term fire growth.

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-notice>

Fire History: 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.