



# WEST MOUNTAIN COMPLEX Wapiti and Bulltrout Fire Updates

AUGUST 9, 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. Northern Rockies CIMT 5 is mobilizing and will take command of the Wapiti and Bulltrout Fires on Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 am.

**Weather | Anticipated Fire Behavior:** Temperatures in the fire areas will rise slightly to the mid-70s, with relative humidities increasing to 20%. Downslope winds are expected in the morning, followed by upslope winds in the afternoon. Dry thunderstorms are possible this afternoon, with low chances of substantial moisture in the coming days.

**Actions:** Firefighter and public safety as well as the protection of values at risk remains the top priority of the team through all suppression efforts. Resources are identified and prepared for initial attack. Aircraft will be ready to support firefighters on the ground for any new fire starts.

**Wapiti Fire:** Firefighting crews remain engaged in implementing appropriate tactics give the fuel and terrain with the highest probability of success protecting the private property in the area. Late afternoon and evening will be when the fire is most active due to an afternoon shift in wind directions. Crews will continue firing operations today, as well as other strategies, to best protect nearby values at risk while keeping firefighters and the public safe.

**Bulltrout Fire:** The Bulltrout Fire remains in patrol status. Firefighting crews continue to mop up and repair the disturbance that suppression has caused.

**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 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>

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: 1,705 acres Bulltrout: 271 acres
Containment	Wapiti: 0% Bulltrout: 74%
Personnel	Wapiti: 53 Bulltrout: 97
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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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 Boise National Forest is working on a reduction on the closure order area. This information will be shared when the new order is finalized.

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 are in Stage 1 fire restrictions on state, endowment, private and federal lands within the West Central Mountains Fire Restrictions Zone. For more information on the restrictions and a map visit: <https://www.idl.idaho.gov/fire-management/fire-restrictions-finder/>

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