



Smoke Outlook

North Central Idaho / SW Montana

8/23 - 8/24

Issued by [Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program](#) on August 23, 2024 at 08:41 AM MDT

Special Statement

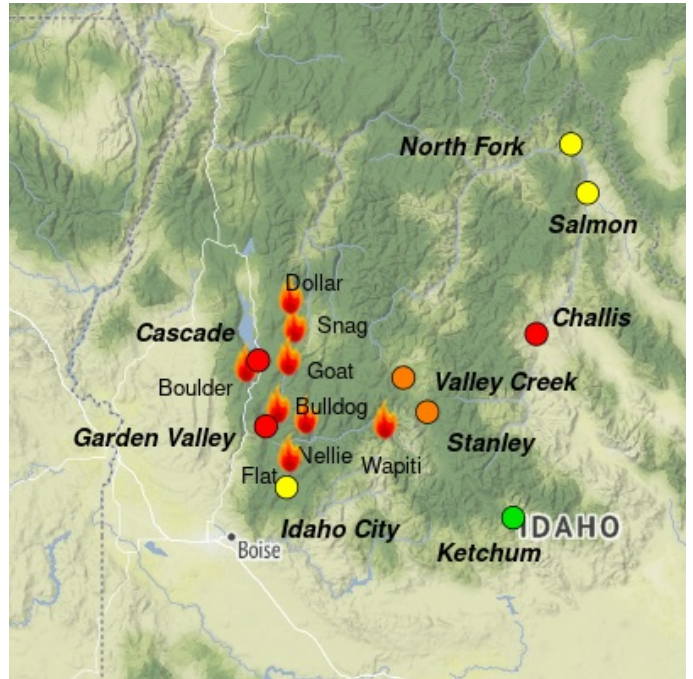
AIR QUALITY ALERT until at least 3 PM Friday. A local RED FLAG WARNING has been issued for the Middle Fork Complex and Wapiti Fire.

Fire

The **Middle Fork Complex** totals 41,519 acres. The **Wapiti Fire** is at 35,631 acres, and the **Flat Fire** is at 3,719 acres. Today is a critical fire weather day. Group torching, spotting, and continued large fire growth is possible with potential pyro-cumulus development. Cloud cover increasing overnight and shower activity tomorrow will moderate fire behavior over the weekend.

Smoke

Heaviest smoke impacts are expected in valleys and low-lying areas; smoke levels build overnight, peak mid-morning, and decrease with afternoon mixing today. 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. Increasing cloud cover and humidity today into tomorrow will limit dispersion and keep smoke elevated Saturday into Sunday. Communities that experience VERY UNHEALTHY to HAZARDOUS air quality should take immediate action to reduce smoke exposure.



Daily AQI Forecast* for Friday

Station	Yesterday	Thu 8/22	Comment for Today -- Fri, Aug 23	Forecast*	
	hourly			Fri 8/23	Sat 8/24
Cascade			UNHEALTHY overall today, improving over the weekend		
Garden Valley			HAZARDOUS air quality mid-morning until mid-afternoon, clearing by evening.		
Idaho City			GOOD air quality with periods of heavier smoke midday.		
Ketchum			GOOD overall, haze aloft and distant smoke plumes visible.		
Valley Creek	No hourly data		Starting GOOD, smoke increasing throughout the day.		
Stanley			Increasing smoke impacts across the valley, starting GOOD, ending V UNHEALTHY		
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 23, 2024 by Amber Ortega - 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 reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.
Unhealthy	People within Sensitive Groups* should avoid all 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
 North Central Idaho / SW Montana Updates -- <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/098b2cf8>
 *Smoke and Health Info -- www.airnow.gov/air-quality-and-health