



Morning Update – Wapiti and Frog Fires

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Great Basin Complex Incident Management Team #4

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Special Updates: A Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team will begin assessing conditions on Thursday to determine areas and critical natural and cultural resources that will require additional repair work. Impacts the BAER team could address include soil erosion, water quality, and fragile slopes above infrastructure and recreation facilities.

As a result of fire suppression efforts and vegetation removal, numerous trees have been cut into lengths suitable for firewood. Entering the fire closure to collect firewood is prohibited. The public may collect any firewood available outside of the closure with a valid firewood permit. Please direct questions on firewood collection to the Stanley Ranger Station at 208.774.3000.

Weather: Strong southwest winds will move into the area midday today, peaking between 2:00 PM and early evening. Gusts up to 35 mph are forecast for the Wapiti Fire area and gusts up to 30 mph for the Frog Fire. Winds in the valley could gust 20 to 25 mph. Winds are expected to taper off around midnight near the Wapiti Fire; however, the Frog Fire may see increased winds through the evening and into the early morning on Thursday. Crews on the Wapiti and Frog Fires are ready to respond to the dynamic weather and fire environment over the next few days. The slight chance of thunderstorms previously forecast for Thursday is unlikely to materialize, but virga showers, precipitation that evaporates before it reaches the ground, may move through the area bringing gusty outflow winds.

Wapiti Fire Statistics	For More Information
Size: 125,479 acres Completion: 72% Total Personnel: 283 Location: near Grandjean, ID Reported: July 24, 2024 Cause: Lightning	InciWeb: https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/idbof-wapiti-fire Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/wapitifireinfo2024 Linktree: https://linktr.ee/WapitiFireInfo2024 Interactive Map: https://tinyurl.com/WapitiFireInfoMap

Current Situation: Work began on the Grandjean Road yesterday and crews will spend the next several days hauling away dirt, rocks, and debris, replacing damaged culverts, and installing temporary erosion control devices. Once the road work is complete and firefighters have access into the area, they will complete all necessary suppression repair activities and remove any equipment that is no longer needed for suppression efforts. Boise National Forest along with fire management will evaluate the timeline and process for allowing residents and property owners access into the Grandjean area. Additional information will be shared once it is available.

As anticipated, there was a slight increase in fire activity today and as the weather continues to stay warm, dry, and windy, smoke may be more visible over the next several days. Fire behavior will consist mainly of surface vegetation spread with the possibility of flames carrying up into surrounding trees. The west side of the fire will be more exposed to the southwest winds, but the wind direction will push the fire interior into itself. Crews will be spread out along the Wapiti Fire perimeter today ready to respond appropriately to any increases in fire activity.

Travelers along Highway 21 should drive cautiously, with lights on, and be prepared for periodic closures or pilot car usage. Along with firefighters, Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) continues

to work along the roadway. As a reminder, the speed limit has been lowered to 45 mph between mile marker 92 and Banner Summit.

Evacuations: Evacuation status for Stanley Zone 1 is currently at READY. Stanley Zones 2 – 5 and Kasino are no longer in an evacuation status. Sign up for Custer County CodeRED emergency notifications: text CUSTER to 99411 or enroll at <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/BF28E45537FF>.

All Boise County evacuation levels have been lifted; residents should remain alert for any change in conditions which could reinitiate an evacuation status. Sign up for Boise County Alert Sense emergency notifications at <https://public.alertsense.com/SignUp/publicUser.aspx?regionid=1163>.

For evacuation information on the Wapiti Fire, please see the Custer County Sheriff’s Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/p/Custer-County-Sheriff-Idaho-61558947312289/>, and the Boise County Sheriff’s Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/boisecountysheriff/>.

Closures: The Wapiti Fire area closure covers portions of the Sawtooth, Boise, and Salmon National Forests. Please reference the map and description at <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-closures/idbof-wapiti-fire>. Recreationalists and hunters should reference this map and obey all posted signage regarding the closure area and any related road, trail, and campground closures.

An interactive map for all closures on the Boise National Forest is found at https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/642380b0eb124c8cab6bd9ad3d7146ad/page/Overview/#data_s=id%3AdataSource_5-1888bd00a2c-layer-13-1888bd00b53-layer-16%3A82.

Frog Fire Statistics	For More Information
Size: 3,112 acres Containment: 42% Total Personnel: 142 Location: east of Clayton, ID Reported: September 7, 2024 Cause: Lightning	InciWeb: https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/idstf-frog Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/sawtoothnationalforest

Current Situation: The northern edge of the Frog Fire may experience increased fire activity from forecast wind gusts up to 30 mph which could carry airborne embers from the ridgeline across Boulder Creek. Crews are working along the west, east, and north sides of the fire perimeter constructing direct hand line and tying it into natural features, like rock screes. Helicopters will support crew suppression efforts through water drops to cool flames and slow fire spread. Engine crews remain in the East Fork drainage and will patrol the area throughout the forecast wind event to respond as needed to suppress fire near the roadway.

Evacuations: There are currently no evacuations related to the Frog Fire.

Closures: The area closure in place around the Frog Fire has been amended and now excludes FS Roads 669 and 670 and Trail 682. FS Road 667 remains closed as does Trail 047 adjacent to the closure boundary. Hunters and recreationalists should familiarize themselves with this closure information prior to entering the vicinity. Please reference the map and read the full closure description at <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-closures/idstf-frog>.