



# Wapiti Fire Update

Thursday September 19, 2024 - 8:00 a.m.

Great Basin Complex Incident Management Team 7

Mike Johnston, Incident Commander



Wapiti Fire Statistics	For More Information
Size: 125,472 acres Completion: 72% Total Personnel: 621 Location: Grandjean, ID Reported: July 24, 2024 Cause: Lightning	Information Phone: 208-593-7132 Email: <a href="mailto:2024.wapiti@firenet.gov">2024.wapiti@firenet.gov</a> InciWeb: <a href="https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/idbof-wapiti-fire">https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/idbof-wapiti-fire</a> Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/wapitifireinfo2024">https://www.facebook.com/wapitifireinfo2024</a> Linktree: <a href="https://linktr.ee/WapitiFireInfo2024">https://linktr.ee/WapitiFireInfo2024</a> Interactive Map: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/WapitiFireInfoMap">https://tinyurl.com/WapitiFireInfoMap</a>

**Special Notes:** Highway 21 will reopen to traffic at 8:00 A.M. on Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. As drivers return to the road, please exercise caution due to ongoing fire personnel working in the area. Repairs are underway, so expect reduced speed limits and potential traffic delays caused by flaggers or pilot cars.

**Current Situation:** This evening at 6:00 P.M. Great Basin Team 7 will transfer command of the Wapiti Fire to Great Basin Complex Incident Management Team 4. The incoming team will continue to coordinate suppression repair operations and community outreach.

As operations wind down, incident managers remain dedicated to repairing areas affected by the fire-suppression efforts on the Wapiti Fire. This includes repairing fences, helipad areas, fire lines, staging areas and roads heavily damaged by firefighting efforts. To prevent these areas from becoming problematic for nearby residents, repair work aims to minimize unintended disturbances caused by suppression activities. Experts specializing in various fields such as archeology, hydrology, wildlife, fisheries, soils/vegetation and timber, often called resource advisors by operation staff, are assisting in the planning and approval of repair activities.

**Branch IV West Side:** Yesterday, a reconnaissance flight spotted four significant and one minor debris flows blocking the Grandjean access road. Today, a front loader cleared a path through the first debris field, allowing crews to assess the extent of the subsequent slides. The Boise National Forest's road crew and engineers are now planning debris removal and road repair operations.

Crews are currently removing structure protection equipment out of all communities along Highway 21. In Lowman, approximately 90 water pumps and six miles of hose were backhauled that were laid out for fire suppression. This equipment will be transported back to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, where it will be cleaned, dried and stored until the next incident where it is needed.

**Branch VI East Side:** A falling module, along with heavy equipment operators, are working along the Stanley Lake Road to remove fire-weakened trees and make repairs to campground and recreation areas. These activities are crucial to visitor safety as the Forest Service considers reopening the area.

**Weather, Fuels, and Fire Behavior:** The recent precipitation event brought up to ¾ inch of rain to areas of the fire. Over the next few days, conditions will become warmer and drier, but no critical fire weather is expected.

The main fuel type on the fire is heavy timber, including species like; lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and spruce in the high elevations. Even weeks after active burning and despite rainfall, large timber species retain heat. Most of the current heat sources are within these dense fuels. Crews are actively locating and extinguishing these hot spots to prevent further fire spread.

**Evacuations:**

Evacuation status for Stanley Zone 1 has changed from SET to READY. Stanley Zones 2-5 and Kasino are no longer in an evacuation status.

Evacuation status for Boise County on the Loman side of the Wapiti Fire has been downgraded to READY (Level 1) in all zones.

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

To sign up for Custer County CodeRED emergency notifications, text CUSTER to 99411 or enroll online at <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/BF28E45537FF>

To sign up for Boise County Alert Sense emergency notification enroll online at <https://public.alertsense.com/SignUp/publicUser.aspx?regionid=1163>

### **Closures and Fire Restrictions:**

**The Middle Fork Complex Fire Closure Order is amended** to provide consistency with the Wapiti Fire closure. This amended order, **Forest Order #0402-06-64**, closes the **582** and **563** roads, as well as the 579 road from its junction with 563 eastward to the junction with Highway 21. More information can be found at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/boise/alerts-notice>

**State Highway 21** remains closed from MP84 (northeast of Lowman) to MP126 (Stanley Lake turn off) until 8:00am Friday September 20<sup>th</sup>.

A **Wapiti Fire Area Closure** / **Forest Order: 0414-04-151** for portions of the Boise, Sawtooth, and Salmon-Challis National Forests can be found at this site: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/sawtooth/alerts-notice>

**Boise National Forest Stage 1 Fire Restrictions** / **Forest Order: 0402-00-63** can be found at this site: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/boise/alerts-notice>

**Sawtooth National Forest Stage 1 Fire Restrictions** / **Forest Order 0414-00-044** can be found at this site: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/sawtooth/alerts-notice>

Fire restrictions on **federal, state, and private lands** may be found at this site: <https://www.idl.idaho.gov/fire-management/fire-restrictions-finder/>

A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) is in place over the Wapiti Fire. Wildfires are a no-fly zone for unauthorized aircraft, including drones. **If you fly, we can't.** For more information, visit <http://knowbeforeyoufly.org>.