

Fish Creek Fire Bridger-Teton National Forest Shoshone National Forest



Fire Information: 307-395-2351 https://linktr.ee/NRTeam1 Email: 2024.fishcreek@firenet.gov https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/wybtf-fish-creek-fire

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Friday, September 13, 2024

Northern Rockies Team 2, Incident Commander Scott Schuster Location: 7 miles SW of Togwotee Pass Start Date: Friday, August 16, 2024 Cause: Lightning Size: 24,904 Percent complete: 69% Resources: 437 Total Personnel: 9 Hand Crews; 16 Engines; 17 Heavy Equipment; 2 Helicopters

KEY MESSAGES:

Precipitation and a few thunderstorms moved across the region yesterday, bringing light rain and snow across the fire zone. Precipitation will diminish, but minimal fire activity is expected again today. Heavy fuels will continue to creep and smolder with occasional single tree torching. Spotting is unlikely with high ground fuel moisture. Smoke will continue to impact the Highway 26/287 corridor and the immediate area around the fire. Roadway visibility may be impacted by the smoke from the fire; please slow down and use caution when driving Highway 26/287.

Fremont County has decreased the "GO – Level 3" Evacuation Order to the "SET – Level 2" Notice for the Brooks Lake, Pinnacle, and Breccia areas. These areas are still within Forest Closures, so access to Brooks Lake, Pinnacle, and Breccia areas will be reevaluated next week. Residents are advised to monitor the situation, as there is still the possibility evacuations may once again be ordered if conditions worsen.

CURRENT STATUS:

Fire monitoring continues for any potential threats to Highway 26 and other critical values. Fuels reduction work is progressing along Deception Road from Highway 26 to Brooks Lake Lodge campground. The moderated weather and minimal fire behavior has allowed resources to begin work on a shaded fuel-break along a 2-mile stretch of the Upper Flagstaff Road. This work includes clearing the understory vegetation and smaller trees for 50' to 100' on each side of the road. Firewise fuels mitigation actions are taking place around the Togwotee Lodge to ensure improved defensible space for values at risk from the Fish Creek Fire or future wildfires.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR:

Chances of precipitation will diminish during the day. Overcast, cool and moist conditions are expected for the next few days. A slight drying and warming trend is expected beginning Sunday. The moderating weather conditions will reduce active fire behavior, however heavy fuels will continue to creep and smolder with occasional single tree torching. High ground fuel moisture will greatly reduce the chances of spotting.



AIR QUALITY AND SMOKE:

Although air quality has improved, unhealthy air quality is possible in locations, especially in low-lying drainages and along the Highway 26/287 corridor. For up-to-date air quality alerts, current and predicted smoke conditions and ways to mitigate poor air quality, check out the AirNow website at https://www.airnow.gov/.

CLOSURES AND EVACUATIONS:

The joint Closure Order issued by both the Bridger-Teton and Shoshone National Forests for the fire area, remains in effect. Please do not enter the closure area or use any Forest Roads that are closed. For specific details regarding this closure, please reference the Fish Creek Area, Roads, and Trails Closure Order (map) and the Forest website at https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/btnf/alerts-notices.

Under the jurisdiction of Fremont County, the areas of Brooks Lake, Pinnacle Drive and Breccia Drive have decreased to Level 2 "Set" Notice (indicated by yellow blocks on the PIO Incident Map). A Level 2 "Set" Notice means residents should be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice. If the Level 2 Set notice changes back to a Level 3 "Go" notice, residents must evacuate until advised otherwise by Fremont County. See the alert notice on the Fremont County Fire Protection District Facebook page.

The Teton County Division of Emergency Management utilizes a Ready, Set, Go system for evacuation messaging, visit their website for additional details at <u>www.tetoncountywy.gov/1846/Ready-Set-GO</u>. (Indicated by green blocks on the PIO Incident Map.) They advise all residents to be in a "Ready" status by preparing for evacuations and becoming fire adapted. All residents are encouraged to sign up for Teton County, Wyoming's free alert and warning service, Teton_WY Alerts at: <u>Teton_WY Alerts - Sign Up</u> (everbridge.net).

US HWY 26/287 is open for free-flowing traffic. Motorists may still experience smoke and sometimes limited visibility. A 45-mph speed restriction remains in effect for the fire area. Motorists are encouraged to stay alert for fire personnel and fire vehicles and use caution when travelling through the area. The Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) continues to work closely with Fremont County Emergency Management, Fremont County Sheriff's Office and fire officials for the safety of motorists and firefighters. Drivers are encouraged to visit https://www.wyoroad.info/ prior to traveling on US HWY 26/287 for road status and information, or download the **Wyoming 511** app at https://www.wyoroad.info/ to monitor for any changes due to fire activity.

