



Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

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Fire Update

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Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests evening update

Kamiah, Idaho, August 30, 2015 –The following is a summary of the major complexes and fires burning across the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests which are not assigned to incident management teams.

South Zone (Salmon River and Red River Ranger Districts)

Name: Red River Complex

Location: South of Elk City, Idaho

Started: August 17, 2015

Cause: Lightning

Total Acreage: 20,950 acres

Containment: 0% Contained

Fires Originally within Red River Complex: 6 fires

Active Fires within the Complex: Slaughter 100 acres, Lone Park and Crown (combined) 26500 acres, Rattlesnake 1500 acres, Noble Fire 3200 acres, Little Green Fire 1200 acres.

Major Events: The Crown and Lone Park Fires have become well established north of the Magruder Road #468 and are impacting the road for about three miles east from 14-Mile Trailhead. The combined size of those fires is 26,500 acres.

A little precipitation over the north half of the Red River District provided welcome relief for both firefighters and concerned residents Saturday evening. Although certainly not suppressing any fires, it did slow fire behavior and activity. Elk City received .14 inch and Red River .03 inch, while no rain was reported on the Salmon River.

Fire activity was extreme on the Noble Fire Saturday, forcing firefighters to turn on pumps and avoid the rapidly advancing flaming front. After the front moved by, they reengaged and put out multiple spot fires around the structures. Two residences were lost, along with one or two outbuildings. An Idaho County Sheriff's deputy has finished an investigation. Last night's IR (infrared) flight shows that fire at 3,200 acres.

The Red River Ranger District transitioned management of the Noble, Crown and Lone Park Fires (Red River Complex) to the Southern Incident Management Red Team, the national incident management team assigned to the Selway Complex. Future information on those fires will be provided by the Selway Complex information group. Additional information can be obtained by calling 877-367-9503.

With the Red Team taking over the majority of those fires, the Red River District will have more resources available for initial attack of any new starts.

The Slaughter Fire west of Concord in the Gospel Hump Wilderness was relatively quiet Saturday, in part because it was shaded by the smoke column from the Tepee Springs Fire on the Salmon River east of Riggins. It is between 100 and 150 acres. General movement has been to the north-northeast. Firefighters will be in the Concord/Hump area today or Monday as visibility allows.

Saturday's activity on the Rattlesnake Fire in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness was minimal as it crept up and down the Salmon River and toward the Sheep Hill Lookout on the top end. There was no significant acreage increase.

The Little Green Fire was somewhat active Saturday, with movement to the east toward Road #285. Structure protection remains at the Green Mountain Lookout.

Evacuation levels for the Elk City and Red River areas are at level 2, while the Mallard Creek and Cook Ranches remain at level 2.

The Tepee Springs Fire crossed the Salmon River and spread across an estimated 10,000 acres of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests on Saturday. Updates regarding this fire are posted on www.inciweb.org.

Central Zone (Lochsa-Powell and Moose Creek Ranger Districts)

Name: Lochsa South Complex

Location: South of Lochsa River from Warm Springs Creek to the Selway River

Started: August 15, 2015

Cause: Lightning

Total Acreage: 5535 acres

Containment: 0% Contained

Fires Originally within Lochsa South Complex: 12

Active Fires within the Complex: Sponge Fire 3000 acres, Grit Fire 400 acres, Lone Knob Fire 400 acres, Fire Creek 400 acres, Air Strip Fire 980 acres.

Major Events: Fires received light, spotty precipitation. Structure protection continues for Wilderness Gateway Campground and outfitter area, the Fish Lake airstrip and cabin, and Gold Meadows and Horsecamp Cabins.

Name: Wilderness Complex

Location: Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness (much of the Moose Creek Ranger District)

Started: August 4, 2015

Cause: Lightning

Total Acreage: 14,900 acres

Fires Originally within the Wilderness Complex: 8

Active Fires within the Complex: Roll Creek 7800 acres, Rock Point 250 acres, Meeker 2400 acres, Baily 1500 acres, Army Mule Fire 2100 acres, Wahoo 650 acres, Wahoo Fire 650 acres.

Major Events: Fires received light, spotty precipitation. Point protection continues for Wilderness cabins, pack bridges and lookouts.

North Zone (Palouse and North Fork Ranger Districts)

Name: Larkin Complex **Location:** Roughly 30 airline miles NE of Pierce
Started: August 17, 2015 **Cause:** Lightning
Total Acreage: 4990 acres **Containment:** 0% Contained
Fires Originally within the Complex (including Wolf Pack Fires): 14

Active Fires within the Complex: Snow Creek Fire 2300 acres, Wolf Pack Fire 980 acres, and Heather Fire 1370 acres, Minnesaka 225, and Roaring 100.

Major Events: Complex has been assigned to a local incident management team.

Name: Scurvy Mountain Fire **Location:** 28 miles ENE of Pierce, Idaho
Started: August 21, 2015 **Cause:** Lightning
Total Acreage: 390 acres **Containment:** 0% contained
Major Events: This fire has been assigned to a local incident management team.

The North Fork District did not receive the wind that Districts on the southern end of the Forests experienced Saturday; consequently, there are no major acreage increases to report. The District has detected four new fires over the last two days. Two of those have been staffed; two are being evaluated. An existing fire has also been staffed.

Due to public safety concerns, all lands managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests are closed to human entry, except the Palouse Ranger District. This closure and fire information is posted at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/nezperceclearwater/home>. Click on the "Fire Information" icon at the top of the page.