



Clearwater Complex Update



Saturday, August 22, 2015 9:00 a.m.

Facts at a Glance

Size: 41,313 total acres*

Date Started: 08/10/2015

Percent Containment: 40%

Personnel Assigned: 845

Equipment: 56 engines, 12 dozers, 25 water tenders

Cause: Lightning

Aircraft Assigned: 5 helicopters

Cooperating Agencies: Idaho Department of Lands; US Forest Service; Clearwater Potlatch Timber Protective Association; Lewis, Clearwater, and Idaho Counties; Nez Perce Tribe; City of Kamiah; Idaho Transportation Department; Idaho State Patrol; Lewis County Sheriff's Office; Clearwater County Sheriff's Office; Idaho County Sheriff's Office; and nine rural fire departments.

*Command of the Fisher Fire transferred to Mike Wilkins' Southern Area Blue Team at 8:00am on August 19. The Fisher Fire is no longer included in the Clearwater Complex acreage. Command of the Woodrat Fire transferred to Kusicko's North Idaho Team at 8:00pm on August 19. The Woodrat Fire is also no longer included in Clearwater Complex acreage.

There will be a public meeting today in Pierce at 6:30pm at the Community Hall. Representatives from fires in the area will be on hand to provide information and answer questions.

Weather: An inversion will remain over the area this morning, with by temperatures warming to the upper 70s and low 80s. Winds will be light and mostly terrain-driven at 4 to 7 mph and the relative humidity will drop to around 18%.

Yesterday's Actions: Firefighters were able to keep the fires in the complex from spreading in most locations and took aggressive actions in two locations where movement occurred. In the Texas Creek/Schmidt Creek area and also between the 2013 Incendiary Fire and Three Mile Road, aircraft made numerous drops of water and retardant to supplement the work of the ground forces. Elsewhere, crews completed dozer lines, mopped up existing lines, and patrolled the fire's edge to ensure that spot fires did not occur. A hot shot crew found a spot in the Hidden Valley area and teamed up with an engine crew to secure it before it could spread.

Today's Plans: Weather will be favorable today for firefighters to move from a reactive posture to a more proactive approach. Light winds and mild temperatures will allow them to complete direct line in areas where in the past several days they have had to go indirect. Operations Chief Mark Goeller described today as a "golden opportunity" to make significant progress in securing active parts of the fire complex.

Closures: Highways 12 and 11 remain open to all traffic but may periodically have a pilot car moving traffic through the fire area.

Additional Info: We have an information center at the Idaho Department of Lands in Kamiah. Fire information and updates can be found at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov> or call either (406) 309-0371 or (208) 507-2621.

###