



Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

903 3rd Street

Kamiah, Idaho 83536

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Fire Update

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Wind Events Grow Cedar Fire and Prompts Additional Closures

Kamiah, Idaho (August 5, 2016) – An early morning Infra-Red detection flight on Thursday showed growth on the Cedar fire and recorded 2,364 acres in the fire's perimeter. The July 17, lightning caused fire, is under the management of the Powell Ranger Station and is located 2 miles northwest of Elk Summit and 11 miles south of the Powell Ranger Station.

Wind events on Monday and Tuesday kept the Cedar fire active and additional growth occurred in the northeast section. Small runs and group torching were observed as the fire encountered the 2007 Bridge fire area. The south aspect of Bridge Creek had flame lengths in the 0-2' range as the fire moved downslope with backing fire observed spreading directly into the wind and 4-6' flame lengths in dead and downed woody debris jackpots. The 2012 Cedar burn to the east has not supported any fire growth or progression from this year's Cedar fire. The fire is burning in mature Spruce and Sub-alpine fir in the Cedar Creek drainage, Lodgepole Pine stands on the ridge tops, and Cedar in wet areas.

Closures: Public health and safety due to wildfire has prompted the closure of Forest Service road #358, KoosKooskia road. Forest Service trail #30 is closed entirely and trail #45 is closed from the trailhead at the junction of road #358 to the junction of trail #30. Forest Service trail #6, Cedar Ridge, remains closed.

The fire is currently not threatening life or property, but precautionary point protection mitigations in the form of sprinklers have been added to the Bridge Creek, Hoodoo Creek and Swamp Creek bridges. Long term management of the fire is planned to meet resource objectives and maintain the natural occurrence of fire in wilderness. The fire will continue to be closely monitored by ground and aerial resources to protect potential values at risk.

During active burn periods, smoke is visible from the Elk Summit road, the Powell Ranger Station and in the Bitterroot Valley. Fire managers are working with air quality specialists to monitor smoke and potential impacts to communities.

The current Fire Danger level in the Powell area is Very High. There are no fire restrictions at this time, but recreationists are reminded to use caution with any outdoor activity that may cause a spark. Never leave campfires unattended. Pour water and add dirt to your campfire until your campfire is cold. Remember: If it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave.

Fire and closure information will be posted on InciWeb at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4874/>, the Lolo Pass Visitor Center, Savage Pass, Elk Summit, the junction of the Forest Service road 358 and Forest Service road 360 and on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests website. For more information, please call (208) 942-3113.

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