



Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

903 3rd Street

Kamiah, Idaho 83536

Web: www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater



Follow and like us! on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Forest-Service-Nez-Perce-Clearwater-National-Forest/858321090859901>

Fire Update

Media Contact: (208) 512-9445
jmdreadfulwater@fs.fed.us

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Fire Update

Kamiah, Idaho (August 30, 2016) – A Red Flag Warning is in effect from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. PST this evening. Thunderstorms with some showers could produce strong, gusty outflow winds. Erratic winds associated with the storms are expected to be southerly, 20-30 mph with maximum gusts possible from 35-55 mph. Relative Humidities are predicted to range from 7-12% in the lower elevations and 13-18% at higher elevations. A Haines index of 6 indicates a high potential for large wildfire growth as the dry, unstable systems pass through the area. Increased fire activity and smoke is expected on wildfires burning in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Smoke from wildfires being managed for resource benefits in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness has the potential to move into Missoula and the Bitterroot Valley. Fire managers are working with air quality specialists to monitor smoke and potential impacts to communities.

Wednesday and Thursday a cold front is expected to arrive in the area and produce thunderstorms and continued breezy conditions. Friday and into the Labor Day weekend will be cooler with unsettled weather.

Visitors are encouraged to contact the local districts for current fire information.

Infra-red flight information was not available overnight for current acreages due to flight restrictions. Acreages are current with the information available, but some growth is expected on all fires due to the forecasted weather conditions and winds.

Current fire status of fires that are being managed for resource benefits greater than 5 acres:

Moose Creek Ranger District –

Moose fire –The August 15, Lightning-caused fire is located 13 miles northeast of the Moose Creek Ranger Station and 8 air miles west of the Idaho-Montana border. The fire is approximately 5,703 acres with limited growth to the east due to old burns and rocky patches. Active burning and growth has been observed to the north, south, and west. The fire is established to the west in the east fork of Moose Creek. Active burning along and within the perimeter has been observed and smoke from the fire can be seen from many locations.

Elk Ridge fire – The Elk Ridge fire is approximately 835 acres and is located 15 miles east of the Moose Creek Ranger Station. The fire is burning in Timber (Grass and Understory) with minimal fire activity.

Freeman – The August 10, lightning Caused fire is 103 acres and is located 9 miles east of Moose Creek Ranger Station. Smoldering on the south perimeter of the fire has been observed, but overall fire activity is minimal.

Sixtytwo fire – The Sixtytwo fire was detected on August 14, and is a lightning-caused fire. The fire is 33 acres, is located 6.5 miles northwest of Moose Creek Ranger Station with multiple old burns in the near vicinity. Fire behavior is minimal with creeping and smoldering and is burning on the south aspect between Sixtytwo Creek and Log Creek drainages.

Fires on the Moose Creek Ranger District are remote with no threats to life or property and no potential values at risk are identified. Fires will continue to be managed for resource benefits and monitored daily.

For more information on the Moose, Elk Ridge, Freeman, and Sixtytwo fires or other general fire information on the Moose Creek Ranger District, please call (208) 926-4258.

Lochsa/Powell Ranger District –

Cedar – July 17, 2016, lightning-caused fire, burning in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness is estimated to be 3,682 acres. Minimal fire activity was reported on the southwest side of the fire between Cedar Creek and Kidney Lake and north of Kooskooskia Meadows. Fire activity to the east continues to be minimal. The fire is not limiting travel on Forest Service road 360, Elk Summit, and is not posing a threat to the Elk Summit Guard Station. Smoke from nearby wildfires limited aerial observations to the south in the east fork of the Moose Creek drainage.

The fire is close to the intersection of FS road 358 and 360. FS road 358 remains closed for public health and safety due to wildfire. Other closures include Forest Service trail #30 (in its entirety), trail #45 (from the trailhead at the junction of road #358 to the junction of trail #30) and Forest Service trail #6, Cedar Ridge.

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.

Lookout Creek – The fire was reported on August 12, and is located 5.5 miles southwest of Cayuse landing strip. The fire is located in steep rocky terrain, estimated to be 25 acres, and is burning in Douglas-fir, grass and sedge with low brush. Fire activity and smoke observed during recent burn periods has been minimal.

North Fork Ranger District –

Goat fire – The Goat fire is lightning-caused and is approximately 20 acres. It is located 32 miles north of Pierce. The fire is remote, burning in high elevation timber below Isabella Point. No notable growth occurred this week.

Bedrock fire – The Bedrock fire is burning 6 air miles southeast of the Cayuse Airstrip near Hanson Meadows in the Kelly Creek drainage. The lightning-caused fire is burning in timber and brush and is estimated to be 21 acres.

The Goat and Bedrock fires are not threatening life or property. The fires will continue to be managed for resource benefits and monitored daily.

For more information on the Goat and Bedrock fires or other general fire information on the North Fork Ranger District, please call (208) 476-4541.

To receive fire information updates by email or text, you can subscribe to GovDelivery at

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFSNIFC/subscriber/topics?qsp=USDAFSNIFC_6



###