



Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

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Fire Update

September 3, 2015 – Afternoon Update

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests evening update

The Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests have lifted the Forest-wide area closure, however, there are still more localized area closures in effect. The closures will continue to change based on fire behavior and weather conditions so please contact any of the Forest's offices or visit us online at www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater and click on the fire information tab for the latest information. For additional fire information please visit www.inciweb.nwcg.gov.

Safety Precautions in Fire Areas: With some burned areas opening up to public access here are a few safety precautions to keep in mind.

- **Driving** – Please drive slowly with your head lights on. Watch for fire vehicles and personnel, other traffic, and DO NOT stop on the road.
- **Hazardous Trees** – Fire damaged trees can fall unexpectedly so try to avoid these areas.
- **Debris** – Watch for rolling rocks, logs, and other debris. Take a saw of some type (handsaw in Wilderness areas) for potentially clearing roads and trails.
- **Watch for Ash Pits** – Ash pits are holes of hot or cold ashes, created by burned trees and stumps. Falling into ash pits can cause burns and/or lower leg injuries.
- **Flooding** – The risk of floods remains significantly higher until burned vegetation can re-grow—up to 5 years after a wildfire.
- **Wilderness Visitors** – If you travel in the vicinity of a fire, be aware of rapid and unpredictable fire spread, rolling debris, falling snags and trees, and limited visibility. Some general guidelines before you leave are:
 - **PREPARE:** Plan your trip with the most current fire information and use trails that avoid the fire. Take a map and compass, and let others know your travel plans. Navigation skills are important in fire areas where trail signs may have burned and are no longer present or readable.
 - **WATCH:** As you travel look out for burned out trees and snags, unstable sections of the trail, rolling rocks and helicopter or airplane water and retardant drops.
 - **CAMP:** Choose a safe place to camp. Look for areas away from the fire, in open areas out of the timber, away from falling/rolling hazards below cliffs and slopes.
 - **RESTRICTIONS:** For your safety some trail closures are in effect. Check out these closures at the www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater.

The 100 – 150 acre Slaughter Fire is burning west of Concord in the Gospel-Hump Wilderness. Firefighters continue with structure protection activities. The 2007 Rattlesnake Fire scar is positioned between the fire and most structures and should slow the fire's spread.

The 1500 acre Rattlesnake Fire in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness continues to show minimal activity, "creeping" up and down the Salmon River and toward the Sheep Hill Lookout to the north. Firefighters continue to

monitor the fire from the Salmon River and provide structure protection between Whitewater Ranch and Allison Ranch.

Southern Area National Incident Management Team is managing most fires currently burning in the South Zone including the Baldy, Wash, Crown, Lone Park, Noble, and Little Green Fires. Information about these fires can be found at www.inciweb.org under the Selway Complex. Information can also be obtained by calling 877-367-9503 or sending an email to selwaycomplex@gmail.com.

The Tepee Springs Fire is about 93,000 acres of which approximately 15,000 are on the Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests. Updates regarding this fire are posted on www.inciweb.org. Information can be obtained by calling 877-683-5560 or sending an email to payettefireinformation@gmail.com.

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 and Rattlesnake 1,500 acres. Other fires in this complex managed by the Red Incident Management Team are: Lone Park and Crown (combined) 26,500 acres, Noble Fire 3,200 acres, and Little Green Fire 1,200 acres.

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: 5,935 acres

Containment: 0% Contained

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

Name: Wilderness Complex

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

Started: August 4, 2015

Cause: Lightning

Total Acreage: 19,295 acres

Containment: 0%

Active Fires within the Complex: Roll Creek 7,800 acres, Rock Point 250 acres, Meeker 2,400 acres, Baily 1,525 acres, Army Mule Fire 5,400 acres, Barren 1205 acres, Wahoo 650 acres.

Major Events: These fires are burning within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and are being monitored as they play their natural role in shaping the Wilderness landscape.

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: 7330 acres

Containment: 0% Contained

Active Fires within the Complex: Snow Creek Fire 3270 acres, Wolf Pack Fire 1370 acres, and Heather Fire 2085 acres, Minnesaka 450, and Roaring 100.

Name: Scurvy Mountain Fire **Location:** 28 miles ENE of Pierce, Idaho

Started: August 21, 2015

Cause: Lightning

Total Acreage: 520 acres

Containment: 0% contained