



Salmon – Challis National Forest



Bitterroot National Forest

Mustang Complex Update September 16, 2012 8:00 a.m.



Lemhi County Sheriff



North Fork Fire
Protection District



A new information line has been established at the Incident Command Post:

Fire Information: 208-865-2170

Hours of operation: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

E-mail: scnf.fire.info@gmail.com

Start Date: July 30, 2012
Cause: Lightning
Current Size: 319,037 acres
Containment: 18%

Location: North of the Main Salmon River and west of the North Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho.

Jurisdiction: USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region, Salmon-Challis National Forest

Resources: 824 personnel, including 10 hand crews, 70 engines, 3 dozers, 14 water tenders, and 3 helicopters.

Idaho: Late Saturday afternoon, fire activity was observed on the east side of highway 93, 1¼ mile north of the Incident Command Post (milepost 326.5) and 150 feet up from the road. Immediately 3 hotshot crews and several wildland and structural engines were dispatched to the scene. The engines mobilized to protect nearby homes throughout the night. Hotshot crews worked through the night constructing line around nearby homes and the fire camp. By morning, approximately 200-250 acres had burned in the grassy fuels. Firefighters will continue efforts to contain the fire edge today.

Evacuations: Based on current fire behavior, the current evacuation levels will remain in place today. The situation will be reevaluated this evening by the Lemhi County Sheriff. Fire managers and the Lemhi County Sheriff are working closely to reopen evacuated areas as soon as safely possible.

Highway 93 is currently open. The public can expect thick smoke between North Fork and south of Gibbonsville. Travelers along Highway 93 should drive with headlights on and reduce their speed as fire personnel and equipment are working along the roadway. Travelers can expect pilot car escorts along highway 93 between North Fork and Gibbonsville, during nighttime hours.

Community Meeting: A community meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 18, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the North Fork Community Church. The public is encouraged to attend for the latest information on the Mustang Complex Wildfires.

Montana: Crews continued to improve the line that anchors the Johnson Creek area to the 2011 Saddle Complex Fire and the 2012 Chrandal Fire using small burnouts. As conditions allow, crews will continue strengthening the line today. Crews continue to prepare fire line in the Mine Creek area. The fire has now passed north of the Gattin Ranch, ID where structures are no longer immediately threatened. The area of Hughes Creek, Montana to the Idaho state line remains under a stage 1 evacuation. Residents in this area have a high probability of need to evacuate and should remain vigilant.

Forecast: Partly cloudy. A brief light shower is possible but no wetting rain is expected. Temperatures are predicted to be 59 to 71 at higher altitudes, and 78 to 80 at lower elevations. Relative humidity should be between 20 and 28 percent. Valley bottom and mid-slope winds between 3 and 6 mph, changing north 6-10 mph at 3:00 p.m. Ridge top winds west at 12 to 17 mph with gusts to 25 mph. Haines Index 3.

For more information on the Mustang Complex Fire, follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/scnf_fire_info, Inciweb <http://inciweb.org/incident/3100/>, Facebook www.facebook.com/mustangcomplex. Pictures and maps can be viewed and downloaded at www.flickr.com/salmonchallisnf