



Foss Lake Fire AM Update

Monday, May 23, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

MNICS Team C, Brian Pisarek, Incident Commander

Fire Information

Web address: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4740/#>

Email: FossLakeFireInfo@gmail.com

Phone: 218-365-2094 (new number) **Location:** US Forest Service, 1393 Hwy 169, Ely, open 8 a.m.–8 p.m.

Size: 1008 acres **Containment:** 30 percent **Fire Start Date:** May 19, 2016

Resources: 9 crews, 2 helicopters, 1 air attack 4 engines, 1 water tender, 259 total personnel

Current Situation: Despite being tested by strong south winds and 25-mph gusts yesterday, the fire grew just slightly (approximately 20 acres). The growth did not occur on the east side, the area of greatest concern for spread toward Burntside Lake, but rather on the west side between Crab and Clark Lakes. Two water tankers (CL-415s) and firefighters on the ground limited the fire's spread. The fire was also active near the southeast arm of Clark Lake where a hotshot crew and Chinook helicopter worked to suppress hot spots. The east side of the fire, which had been a concern, was quiet. On the northeast side, a hotshot crew cutting saw line south from Crab Lake came within a half day's work of joining up with firefighters working from the south. On the southern end of the fire, crews found very little heat as they mopped up from the fire perimeter to an interior depth of fifty to one hundred feet.

Today's work plan is very much the same as yesterday: mopping up the southern perimeter, cutting saw line and laying hose on the north, using aircraft to conduct water drops on hot spots. Helicopters will also be used to assist crews with backhauling gas cans, cargo nets, and trash. Backhauling is bringing supplies, trash, and equipment—such as hose, pumps, gas cans—from the fireline to the incident command post where it will be cleaned, reused, and returned to the fire cache.

Members of the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade, using their fire boat, will continue to shuttle crews, their canoes, and their gear across Burntside Lake as they travel to Crab or Clark Lakes to camp. Along with members of the Morse/Fall Lake Fire Department, they also continue to make contact with Burntside property owners, sharing information with them about FireWise and defensible space. Members of the St. Louis Co. Sheriff's Rescue Squad continue to work closely with property owners.

Weather and Fire Behavior: Winds will be from the south and strong again today, gusting to 25 mph. The temperature should reach the high 70s. However, the relative humidity could significantly increase to near 50 percent, which should reduce fire behavior. The effect of high relative humidity on fire behavior could be offset by thunderstorms developing over the fire area this afternoon. Gustly, erratic winds accompanying the thunderstorms could make the fire more active. Dry lighting is not expected.

Closures: Crab Lake entry point #4 is the only officially closed BWCAW entry point. The following BWCAW portages and lakes/ivers, including campsites, are closed:

- portage Burntside Lake to Crab Lake (entry point #4)
- portage from Cummings Lake to Korb Lake; portage from Cummings Lake to Korb River
- lakes and associated portages: Crab, Boulder, Phantom, Battle, Sprite, Meat, Clark, Glimmer, Hassle, Saca, Little Crab, Korb, Maxine, Barefoot, Little Jig, Silaca, Coxey Pond, Lunetta, Schlamm, Soroll, Glenmore, Western, Blick, Chad, Dugout, and Pine.
- Pine Creek east of Trout Lake
- portage from Trout Lake to Pine Lake

Closure signs are posted at normal access points to delineate the closure area. The closure order and map are located at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/closures/4740/>.

