



Alder Creek, Trail Creek, Christensen, and Black Mountain
Fire Update
August 16, 2021

Open house meetings have been scheduled for Wise River, Tuesday from 5-7pm and Jackson, Wednesday from 5-7pm. Contact Public Information for more information.

Alder Creek Fire: Activity was seen within the fire's interior with some exterior growth near Foolhen Ridge and on Stein Ridge. West to Southwest winds are expected to push the fire back into itself, minimizing further growth. Crews continue to clean up contingency lines and monitor the fire for increased activity, particularly in the areas of Foolhen Ridge, Bryant Creek, and Deno Creek/Stein Ridge, where the most growth has occurred during the past couple days.

Christensen Fire: Crews are working to improve roads on the Northwest portion of the fire and have added a new line tying into Toomey Creek. Winds should encourage the fire to back into itself in several places allowing for an opportunity for crews to begin some mop up operations. Crews will watch for spread should strong ridgetop winds carry the fire northeast from Trident Peak towards the Bryant Creek drainage. Control lines are completed and continue to be improved to prevent additional spread. Crews are placed strategically to monitor fire behavior and to respond as necessary.

Trail Creek Fire: North of the Big Hole Battlefield and west towards Salix Creek received moderate growth. Crews made progress improving lines and mopping up where possible. Significant northeast spread is unlikely due to finer fuels, the Rat Creek burn scar, and higher fuel moistures near the Big Hole River. The fire has backed down the drainages between Three Mile Creek and the West Fork of Nez Perce Creek. Southwest winds are expected to retard additional growth, however, handcrews, aircraft, and engine crews are prepared should the fire cross the drainage and progress east.

Black Mountain Fire: No additional fire activity has been reported, and crews continue to monitor the area for changes. Contingency lines are complete should the situation change. Crews are utilizing chippers, feller bunchers, and excavators to implement rehab activities and clean up contingency lines along Forest Service Road 7335.

Fire Weather Today: Today's weather pattern remains similar with temperatures in the mid 80s and relative humidity in the mid to upper teens. Winds, however, will increase significantly with consistent speeds of 15mph and gusts of up to 35mph. Fire activity may increase in response to a third day of poor relative humidity recovery and increased UV exposure due to clearing smoke.

Major Closures:

- Hwy 43 and Pioneer Byway remain open. Motorists are asked to slow down and be on the alert for firefighters, heavy smoke, and downed trees. Please check the [Montana DOT Road Report](#) website for current conditions.
- Continental Divide Trail: Closed from Lemhi Pass north to Mussigbrod Creek.
- Big Hole National Battlefield is closed until further notice. North and South VanHouten, Miner Lakes, Twin Lakes, May Creek and Divide Bridge Campgrounds are closed.
- Forest Closure orders in the [Beaverhead-Deerlodge](#) and [Salmon-Challis](#) National Forests are in effect for all three fires.

[Stage 2 Fire Restrictions](#) are in effect for SW Montana
[Stage 1 Fire Restrictions](#) are in effect for Central ID

Evacuations:

Stage 1 evacuation on Highway 43 from Mile Marker 35 to the County Line at Mile Marker 41.5. This includes the residents of Doolittle Creek Road and North Doolittle Creek Road. Southside of Highway 43 from Alder Creek Road to Dickie Bridge. Westside of the Scenic Byway from the Wisdom Airport to Harriette Lou Road. All evacuation statuses have been removed in Alder Creek drainage and Southside of Highway 43 from Alder Creek Road to Mile Marker 62. Lemhi County Sheriff has contacted residences in threatened areas on the west side of the Trail Creek Fire in Idaho and placed in "Set" evacuation status. Evacuation Info: 208-756-8980.

Inciweb:

For updates and additional incident information can be found at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>

Mark Morales, INCIDENT
COMMANDER

INCIDENT STATISTICS:

Alder Creek

Size: 13,462 Acres
Containment: 10%
Location: 7 miles west of
Wise River, MT
Start Date: July 8, 2021
Cause: Unknown
Total personnel: 279

Trail Creek

Size: 37,908 Acres
Containment: 26%
Location: 20 miles west of
Wisdom, MT
Start Date: July 8, 2021
Cause: Lightning
Total personnel: 273

Christensen

Size: 10,846 Acres
Containment: 10%
Location: 12 miles west of Wise
River, MT
Start Date: July 16, 2021
Cause: Unknown
Total personnel: 52

Black Mountain

Size: 1,041 Acres
Containment: 75%
Location: 13 miles south of
Jackson, MT
Start Date: July 17, 2021
Cause: Lightning
Total personnel: 16

Fire Information Line: 406-624-
9452 (8am-8pm) **Email:**
2021.AlderCreek@firenet.gov
2021.blackmountain@firenet.gov

Facebook:

[@AlderCreekAndTrailCreekFires](#)
[@BlackMountainFire](#)