



BITTERROOT WILDLAND FIRE USE COMPLEX

August 30th Fire Update

Fire Complex Location: Bitterroot National Forest in the Selway Bitterroot and Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, west of Darby, Montana

Fire Complex Acreage: 19,284 acres (includes Bell Lake Fire)

Fire Complex Status: Most of the fires started on July 18. The Ingomar and Bell Lake fires started on August 10 and the BH fire started on August 16. Many of these fires may continue burning throughout the fire season while resource and fire management objectives continue to be met.

The numerous lightning fires in the wilderness have been grouped into four geographic areas within the Bitterroot Wildland Fire Use Complex:

Sawtooth area- fires in the Sawtooth Creek drainage: Ingomar (76 acres) and Bell Lake (300 acres) fires.

White Cap area- fires north of Cooper Point and Watchtower Peak includes: El Cap (4,366 acres), Capitain Creek (<1 acre), Watchtower (40 acres), and Snake (201).

Magruder area- fires south of the White Cap area and north of Salmon Mountain, and Storm Creek Flat includes: Indian (38 acres), South Saddle (411 acres), **Magruder (3,994 acres)**, Magruder #2 (inactive), BH (693), Halfway Pete (4 acres), Haystack Creek (<1 acre), and Salamander fires (<1 acre).

Harrington Ridge area- fires south of the Magruder area, includes: Elkhorn (3,077 acres) and Harrington fires (6,074 acres).

Thursday's Activities

As of yesterday, the Bell Lake Fire is being managed as part of the Bitterroot WFU Complex. The fire started on the Nez Perce National Forest and burned into the Bitterroot National Forest.

The BH and Magruder fires were active yesterday, temporarily closing portions of Magruder Road. Continue to expect intermittent closures along the Magruder Corridor road during daylight operational periods or during active burning periods (see CLOSURES). When roads are open be cautious of rolling materials and snags.

There are numerous fires on the Bitterroot and adjacent National Forests which add to the smoke experienced in drainages and during hazy afternoon conditions.

Thursday's Weather

RED FLAG Warning for afternoon thunderstorms and dry lightning.



Temperature: 72-78° F

Winds: West-southwest 5-16 mph with gusts up 16-22 mph.

Relative Humidity: 17-22%

Smoke: Morning inversion breaking up by noon and some haziness expected throughout the afternoon from numerous fires in the area.

Wildland Fire Use



Wildland fire use events are naturally-ignited fires managed over a long period of time to restore the role of fire as a critical natural process.

Firefighting personnel and equipment that are available to the Fire Use Management Team are also available to quickly extinguish new fires or put out portions of current fires in areas where fire is undesirable.

CLOSURES!



Expect intermittent closures along the Magruder Corridor road between the Magruder crossing and Salmon Base Camp (to Elk Creek) during daylight operational periods or while active fire is burning. Closures may last 24 to 48 hours or until fire and debris are clear of the road.

Contacts:

Fire Information: www.inciweb.org or (406) 821-2055

Bitterroot National Forest: www.fs.fed.us/r1/bitterroot/

West Fork District Office: (406) 821-3269