West Lolo Complex (Thorne Creek Fire)
Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District, Lolo National Forest
Drew Daily, Incident Commander
Friday, July 23, 2021

Contact Information	Thorne Creek Fire Statistics	Resources	
Information Line: 208-274-9674, 8AM - 8PM	Location: 5 miles NE of Thompson Falls	Crews: 6	Dozers: 4
Website: inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7620/	Date of Origin: 7/7/2021	Engines: 1	Skidgens: 3
Facebook: @WestLoloComplex	Cause: Lightning	Helicopters: 3	Feller Bunchers: 3
Twitter: twitter.com/LoloNF	Acres: 2,043	Personnel: 292	Water Tenders: 5
Email: 2021.westlolo@firenet.gov	Containment: 0%		
YouTube: West Lolo Complex YouTube			

Evacuations: The Sanders County Sheriff's Office has issued an evacuation warning (pre-evacuation) for the "Graves North" and "Graves South" areas. These areas are described as "from Cougar Creek south to the intersection of Blue Slide Road and the railroad tracks." Deputies will be gathering pre-evacuation information from residents as they work through the areas door-to-door beginning today. Residents in these areas should be prepared to evacuate if conditions warrant. Sign up for emergency notifications at Hyper-Reach for Sanders County.

Summary: Command of the Deep Lookout Mountain Fire was returned to the Superior Ranger District at 8 p.m. on July 22. Command of the Thorne Creek Fire was transferred to the local Plains/T-Falls Type 3 incident management team, led by incident commander Drew Daily. The team is looking forward to working closely with the local landowners, stakeholders, cooperators, and agencies in the successful suppression of this fire, keeping public and firefighter safety as the top priority.

Operations: On the eastern flank, (Divisions Echo and Juliet) a taskforce of heavy equipment is constructing indirect control lines to create large fuel breaks to slow the eastward progression of the fire. To the south and west, (Divisions November and Zulu) more dozers, feller bunchers and skidgens are building firelines as control features in preparation for possible firing operations. The purpose of any proposed firing operation is to use fire to consume vegetation within the control lines at a lower intensity to create an additional buffer to stop the fire's forward progression and lessen its impacts and intensity. The objective is to "starve" the fire of fuel. Firing operations are supported by crews, aircraft, engines, and water delivery systems already on the fireline. Smoke from a burnout or firing operation will be visible from multiple locations, but the smoldering material is within the control lines. Firefighters may be conducting aerial ignitions today at the upper end of Winniemuck Creek as directed by Operations. This tactic involves dropping plastic spheres from helicopters that ignite the fuels on the ground in strategic locations to moderate fire behavior potential.

Weather: Mostly sunny skies and warmer today with temperatures in the mid-60s to mid-70s near the ridgetops and highs in the low 80s at mid and lower slopes. Low minimum humidity and westerly winds will result in elevated fire conditions today. Hotter and dry weather will continue through the weekend.

Closures and Additional Information:
- STAGE 2 fire restrictions are in effect; visit www.mtfireinfo.org to learn more about local fire restrictions.
- Air quality and smoke monitoring can be found at fires.airfire.org/outlooks/WestMontana
- Know before you go! Area, road, and trail closures are issued for areas impacted by fire on the Lolo National Forest. Closure information can be found at inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7620/
- Temporary flight restrictions are in place over the Thorne Creek Fire. If you fly, we can't! Visit knowbeforeyoufly.org.
- Sanders County Sheriff's Facebook: www.facebook.com/Sanders-County-Montana-Sheriffs-Office-1410792339177631
- Sanders County Wildland Fire Information Facebook: @SCWildlandFireMT

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