



Cliff Creek Fire Update

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August 5, 2016 – 2p.m.

Bondurant, WY – Teton County rescinded the mandatory evacuation order that was in effect for the Granite Creek area including, Granite Campground, Jack Pine Summer Homes, and the Safari Club at 10a.m. today.

A Forest Service Area Closure for the Granite Creek Road was also modified today to allow the public access to areas WEST of Granite Creek. Burned areas, Granite Creek Campgrounds, Granite Hot Springs and numerous forest trails remain closed. This closure will be evaluated on a weekly basis to open Granite Hot Springs and other public use areas as soon as safely possible.

The Lower Valley Energy will be working in Granite Creek today. They were able to re-energize power lines, around noon today. They will be working for several weeks removing hazardous trees and stabilizing power in the drainage.

With cooler weather and calmer winds, the Cliff Creek Fire was less active yesterday. Despite this, activity included wide spread single tree torching and to a lesser degree, group torching verging on short crown fire runs on the fire's interior. An additional 400 acres burned in the headwaters of Mill Creek of the Shoal Creek Wilderness Study area.

Heavy inversions are occurring in the mornings which are not prone to lifting until the late morning to early afternoons. Teton County Public Health recommends people avoid all physical outdoor activity in the Granite Creek Area. Smoke monitors that were positioned throughout the fire area have been removed. A new monitor will be placed in Granite Creek in the near future.

A Burned Area Emergency Response Team will be working throughout the weekend to assess hydrophobic threats to values at risk along the Granite Creek Road and Hwy 189/191 corridor. These members specialize in hydrology, archeology, geology, invasive species, GIS and trails management. When their assessment is complete, they will provide a Report to Pinedale Ranger District with recommendations, if there are any, on how to protect those values.

The Cliff Creek Fire is using natural barriers in the Shoal Creek Wilderness Study Area and the Gros Ventre Wilderness to confine the fire's northern boundary to minimize firefighter and aviation exposure to danger and to allow fire to play a natural role in the Wilderness. Until significant snow is received across the area, group and single tree torching in the fire's interior will occur, especially under dry, windy days. When this occurs, smoke columns may become visible. The fire is currently not posing a threat to containment lines. Fire is a natural process that allows the forest to reset itself. It is one of the only tools that help nature restore the forest habitat to natural conditions. In the long run, fire treated areas reduce dead and dying timber stands and creates ecological diversity that helps the forest become resilient to environmental changes.

Weather: A few clouds will move in on Friday which may develop into thunderstorms. Cloud cover will create shadows and moderate fire behavior if winds do not accompany cloud formation.

Area/Trail Closures: The Bridger-Teton National Forest Emergency Area Closure, Order #04-03-560 was modified. The ridge north of Granite Hot Springs within the Gros Ventre Wilderness, and easterly to the Sawtooths and south along the Shoal Creek Wilderness Study Area to Jack Creek Basin and the private land boundary. A map associated with this closure is at: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/article/4865/32042/>.

Location: 5 miles north of Bondurant, WY

Start Date: July 17

Cause: Lightning

Contained: 84%

Size: 31,662 acres

Total Personnel: 290

Resources:

- Crews: 5
- Engines: 5
- Dozers: 1
- Helicopters: 3

#Cliff Creek#

Website: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4865/> | **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/BridgerTetonNF/>