

Fire Information

Yellowstone National Park Fires

September 3, 2016 10:00 am

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yellowstone National Park



Precipitation and Cooler Temperatures Expected to Moderate Fire Activity

Today's Key Points

- Today, there will be more cloud cover. High temperatures will be 15 degrees cooler than on Thursday. Relative humidity will be 25-30%. Winds will be out of the southwest at 15-20mph with 25mph gusts. Showers are expected tonight. Cool, wet weather is expected on both Sunday and Monday. Fire behavior will be moderated compared to the last few days. Not much fire perimeter growth is expected today. However, unburned islands within the fire's perimeter are expected to burn actively-
- There are fire information boards posted around the park including at the Albright Visitor Center at Mammoth Hot Springs, near the Slough Creek Campground entrance east of Tower Junction, at the Canyon Village Education Center, at the Fishing Bridge Visitor Center, along the road between the West Entrance and Madison Junction, and at the Norris Geyser Basin. Public Information Officers are frequently stationed at these locations to answer questions about fire information.
- Yesterday fire crews on the Maple Fire conducted burnout operations of approximately 600 acres south of Cougar Creek toward the Transfer Station using hand lighting and aerial ignition. This action reinforces the established control lines from the Transfer station, north to Gneiss Creek to the ridge top south of Campanula Creek.
- The Buffalo Fire is visible from several vantage points along the road between Tower Junction and the Northeast Entrance. The fire is active on the east side of the fire in sage brush and grass. The fire crossed Slough Creek and helicopters are supporting fire crews on the ground to keep the fire from crossing the Slough Creek Trail. The fire is moving northeast along Anderson Ridge.
- The Fawn Fire had very little activity on the east side of the fire yesterday. The north and south sides of the fire are burning in dead and down timber and larger amounts of smoke may be seen in these areas. Fire activity has also been especially active on northeast slopes on the Fawn Fire where there are dense stands of mature timber.
- The Central Fire experienced very high winds yesterday which kept smoke low to the ground.
- Firefighters continue to work along portions of the West Entrance Road between West Yellowstone and Madison Junction. Drivers must stay alert and use caution when travelling in this area.
- Good air quality is expected in West Yellowstone today. Light smoke may return this evening and persist through tonight briefly reaching Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups levels early tomorrow morning. In the Duck Creek area, unhealthy smoke levels will linger and clear by mid-morning with the break in the inversion. Mammoth may see hazy conditions today with smoke possibly reaching Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups levels by early evening, clearing overnight. Madison may see hazy conditions this afternoon.

What's Open:

- **All entrances to Yellowstone are open.**
- Park visitor facilities, including park concession-operated services, and businesses in surrounding communities remain open.
- The Bakers Hole area of the Madison River is open.

What's Closed:

- The Slough Creek area, including the day use and campground are closed due to the Buffalo Fire.
- The Mary Mountain Trail is closed due to the Central Fire.
- Visit the links below for the full list and maps of current backcountry campsite, trail, and road closures.

Stage 2 Fire Restrictions Are In Effect Charcoal and wood fires are prohibited. Visit the links below for additional details.

Maple Fire: 39,420 acres (an increase of 1,416 acres)

Location: approx. 3.56 mi NE of West Yellowstone (Intersection of US HWY 20 & 287), 3.57 mi SW of Mount Holmes Lookout, 1.78 mi from Madison Junction

Fire mangers continue to work to keep the fire north of the West Entrance Road and the Madison River by conducting burnout operations to increase the chances of holding the fire in check. Fuel reduction has been completed and sprinkler systems for structural protection at Madison Junction are in place. Firefighters also continue to patrol and monitor fire activity overnight.

Buffalo Fire: 7,422 acres (There was no infrared flight last night, so no acreage increase is reflected.)

Location: approximately 3 mi NE of Tower Junction and 2 mi S of the park boundary

The Buffalo Fire is primarily growing in a northeast direction along Anderson Ridge. The fire has not crossed the Slough Creek Trail to the east.

Fawn Fire: 2,566 acres (approximately 39 acre increase)

Location: W of Fawn Pass, approximately 8 mi W of Mammoth Hot Springs, 18.5 mi NE of West Yellowstone, 13 mi SW of Gardiner, and 27 mi SE of Big Sky

The Fawn Fire was less active yesterday, but a spot fire on the southwest end of the fire burned intensely.

Central Fire: 1,350 acres (approximately 90 acre increase)

Location: a remote area, approximately 8.5 mi W of Lake developed area and 2 mi S of Hayden Valley

The Central Fire continues to back slowly into the wind to the west where it is burning in stands of young lodgepole pine in an area that burned in 1988. Where the fire has burned into Hayden Valley to the northeast, the grasses are not carrying it. There has been limited growth on the southwest side of the fire. An area that burned during the 2015 Spruce Fire is limiting its spread to the southeast.

Park Fire Information: <http://go.nps.gov/YellowstoneFire>

Inciweb: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/unit/5382/>

Fire Information: 307-344-7102, ynpfires2016@gmail.com

Year-Round Yellowstone Road Conditions: 307-344-2117



Air Quality



Fire Info



InciWeb