



Sunset Fire

Fire Information 208-990-1881
Email: 2025.sunset@firenet.gov



August 22, 2025
Evening Update

Northern Rockies Team 5, Incident Commander Joe Sampson

Location: On the western slope of Lake Pend Oreille, northeast of Athol, ID.

Start Date: 8/13/2025

Cause: Under investigation

Size: 3,208 acres

Containment: 11%

Total Personnel: 678

Evacuation orders are still in effect.

Roads in SET and roads in GO are listed on [InciWeb at this link](#).

Water scoopers will continue to draw water from Lake Pend Oreille. Boaters: please stay out of the flight path of these planes to minimize disruptions to firefighting efforts.

CURRENT STATUS

A hotshot crew, supported by aircraft, extinguished a 20-acre area of concentrated activity on the northwestern edge. Crews worked to hold and improve firelines along the western flank, working northward in the very steep terrain into Maiden Creek. Hotshot and type 2 hand crews worked from north to south from Pearl Creek to Maiden Creek. In the northern-most area of the fire, hotshot crews will "spike out," or camp near the fireline for several days. Mop-up operations to address areas of deep residual heat continued with an excavator while aerial assets dropped water on those areas near the southwestern flank.

Aerial resources, including scoopers and helicopters, continued to assist all firefighting efforts using water drops to support crews on the ground. Structure protection teams finalized protection measures using sprinklers and hoselays south of Talache Road and Butler Creek. From the lakeshore, watercraft inserted crews into remote areas and supplied water to cool hotspots and active flames. An Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) module with infrared (IR) capabilities provided information to crews on locations of hotspots and residual heat.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

As temperatures increased to the upper 80s and relative humidity dropped to the low 20s, smoke was visible as larger fuels burned. North to northeast winds along the lakeshore were 10 mph with gusts up to 15 mph.

The fire has not made westerly progression and is not anticipated to in the near future. Poor overnight recovery will allow burn windows to continue into the evening hours and early morning. Active fire behavior will be more favorable earlier in the day. Fire behavior with flanking, torching, and short-range spotting will increase, with possible short up-hill runs.

EVACUATIONS, RESTRICTIONS, CLOSURES

The Incident Management Team worked in conjunction with the Bonner County Sheriff 's Office to clarify the narrative descriptions of the evacuation zones for the Sunset Fire. Roads in SET and roads in GO are listed on [InciWeb at this link](#).

To receive the latest evacuation updates please sign up for Bonner County Nixle alerts via text. Text 888777 and enter your zip code.

There is an evacuation center at the Cocolalla Bible Camp to assist displaced residents. The Bonner County Fairgrounds are available to shelter evacuated livestock on a limited basis.

Area closures are in effect on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The area closure encompasses all National Forest Service Lands (NFSL) along the western shoreline of Lake Pend Oreille, from Camp Bay south to Three Sisters Horizontal Control Station. The closure extends west to Three Sisters Creek, then proceeds north to just south of National Forest Service Road (NFSR) 230. It then follows a stepped northeast path to Hickman Creek continuing east to the Forest Boundary and then heads north to Sagle Road. From Sagle Road, the boundary extends east back to Camp Bay.

More information on Idaho Panhandle National Forests area closures can be found at:
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r01/idahopanhandle/alerts>

A Temporary flight restriction (TFR) is in place that restricts all aircraft (including drones) from operating in the fire area without permission.