

Highline Fire Update

Payette National Forest

United States Department of Agriculture
500 North Mission Street
McCall, ID 83638



Contact: Jack West, Public Information Officer, 850-445-7929

Date: Thursday, September 7, 2017

For More Information: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5500/>

Highline Fire Facts

Location: The Highline Fire and Goat Fire are both burning on the Payette National Forest, Krassel Ranger District, entirely within the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness (<https://tinyurl.com/y8qomgpm>), approximately 23 miles east/northeast of Warren, Idaho.

Cause/Date of Origin: Started by lightning, July 28, 2017 @ approx. 7:00 p.m.

Current Size: Highline Fire: 70,938 acres / Goat Fire: 605 Acres

Management Strategy: The fires are being managed to maximize the benefit to the natural resources found within the Wilderness. Firefighters are conducting point protection which is a wildfire response strategy that protects specific assets or highly valued resources from the wildfire without directly halting the continued spread of the wildfire.

Current Situation: Portions of the Highline Fire continued to actively burn despite being blanketed by a thick layer of smoke yesterday. The most active burning occurred along the southwestern edge of the fire in the Ramey Creek drainage. Torching trees and spotting out to one quarter mile continue to increase the fire perimeter. Heavy smoke is slowing fire spread on other portions of the incident. Aircraft working on the fire were grounded Wednesday due to poor visibility caused by the smoke.

Firefighters remain in strategic locations prepared to take action to protect Values at Risk should the fire progression demonstrate a need. Resources assigned to the fire include one interagency hotshot crew, one type 2 initial attack crew, one type 1 wildland fire module, one local hand crew, 2 light helicopters and multiple fireline leadership and support positions. A total of 109 personnel are assigned to the overall incident. An Incident Command Post is setup in McCall to coordinate all fire response and support actions.

Weather: There is a slight chance of thunderstorms Thursday afternoon and evening as a small weather disturbance moves over the region. Any storms that develop will be isolated and produce spotty rain. Gusty and erratic winds may accompany thunderstorms. Thick smoke and light north winds will continue through mid-day. Late afternoon will bring a wind shift to the south-southwest. The chance of thunderstorms will continue on Friday. West-southwest flow will continue through the weekend with cooler temperatures and higher relative humidity.

Closures and Restrictions: A Forest Area Closure is in effect for public and firefighter safety. Included in the closure area, Chamberlain, Cold Meadows, Soldier Bar and Cabin Creek Airstrips are closed due to fire activity. Please visit the following link for the Highline Fire Area Closure Order: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/article/5500/40016/>.

The Payette National Forest is also under [STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS](#). [Click this link for designated sites](#) where campfires are allowed. If a site is not signed as being a designated site, then campfires are not allowed at that site. There are no fire restrictions in the Frank Church River or No Return Wilderness. For more information: <http://www.idahofireinfo.com/p/wilderness-fire-restrictions.html>.

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