



# NW Montana Joint Information Center

## Fire Update

### September 9, 2003, 10:00 A.M.

Center Hours 6 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Phone # (406) 755-3910

[www.fs.fed.us/nwacfire](http://www.fs.fed.us/nwacfire)

[For information on closures on the Flathead National Forest call 406-758-6491.](#)

[For information on closures at Glacier National Park call 406-888-7800.](#)

**BLACKFOOT LAKE COMPLEX** Includes the Beta Lake-Doris Ridge fires, Ball fire, Mid Fire and the Blackfoot lake complex of fires located on Flathead National Forest, 19 miles East of Kalispell, MT. Fire Information (406) 755-3910, 387-4609.

**Size:** Beta/Doris – 5,230 acres

**total personnel:** 1,335

**containment:** 15%

**Size:** Blackfoot Lake Fires – 15,697 acres

For entire complex

For entire complex

**Size:** Ball Fire – 7,492 acres

**Status:** Precipitation amounts ranged from .21 of an inch in the southern area of the complex to over an inch in the northern area of the complex, causing only smoldering large fuels to be observed yesterday and this morning. This precipitation also slowed the perimeter growth on all of the fires. Air operations were also used on the Ball Fire.

**Outlook:** Construction of direct line where it is appropriate to complement the effects of the rain will continue on all fires.

**A public meeting will be held tonight at the Canyon Elementary School at 7:00 pm.**

**CRAZY HORSE FIRE** Located on private and Flathead National Forest land, 8 miles south of Condon, MT. Fire Information: (406) 754-4620, (406) 754-2295, (406) 754-2291, (406) 754-3137

**Size:** 11,300 acres

**total personnel:** 117

**containment:** 90%

**Status:** Rain began Sunday night and continued intermittently through out the day. This limited the fire to just smoldering hot spots.

**Outlook:** Continue patrol, mop-up and rehab outside and inside the Wilderness.

**LITTLE SALMON COMPLEX** Located in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, 47 miles southeast of Kalispell, MT. Fire Information: (406) 758-5376

**Size:** 76,459 acres

**total personnel:** 72

**containment:** N/A

**Status:** The Little Salmon complex is managing both Wild Fire Use and Suppression incidents. The complex consists of **16 active fires: 8 Wildland Fire Use fires** totaling 33,441 acres (Little Salmon, Pagoda Mtn., Lime Creek, Independence Park, Salmon Point, Casey Creek, South Spud, & Little Hammer) and **8 modified-suppression fires** that total 43,018 acres and include Gordon, Gyp, Crimson, Molly Creek, Leota, Some Creek, Mid, and High Fires. Fire behavior was much less aggressive yesterday. A cloud cover was present for the entire day with precipitation amounts of .07 inches at the RAWS to .21 inches at Spotted Bear Ranger Station. The precipitation amount was not uniform through out the area. The Mid Fire still has potential for high fire behavior because of low rain amounts in that area of the complex.

**Outlook:** Mapping, reconnaissance, and evaluation of the fires within the complex, will continue if long term weather forecasts permit.

**MIDDLE FORK COMPLEX** Located 5 miles east of West Glacier, MT. The complex consists of the Belton, Center and Harrison Fires. Fire Information (406) 892-0946, (406) 892-0948.

**Size:** 10,977 acres (177 acres growth since 9/8)

**total personnel:** 80

**containment:** 5%

**Status:** Precipitation of .52 of an inch arrived over the fires yesterday, temporarily halting the fire spread. All fires within the complex have burned together.

**Outlook:** Continuation of structure protection, monitoring, reconnaissance, aerial suppression, and continue ground action on the western section of the Belton Fire, now joined with the Center and Harrison, to keep it from moving toward West Glacier.

**RAMPAGE COMPLEX** Located 15 miles southeast of West Glacier, MT. The complex consists of the Rampage, Riverview 1, Riverview 2, and Double Mountain 2 fires. The Double Mountain Fires 1 and 2 have grown together. Fire Information (406) 892-0946, (406) 892-0948.

**Size:** 23,497 (1,091 acres growth since 9/8)                      **total personnel:** 33                      **containment:** 0%

**Status:** Wetting rains of .52 of an inch arrived over the fires yesterday, temporarily halting the fire spread. The complex now consists of just two fires, the Double Mountain Fire and the Riverview Fire.

**Outlook:** Continued contingency planning and structure protection.

**ROBERT FIRE** Located on Flathead National Forest and Glacier National Park, 8 miles north of Columbia Falls, MT. Fire Information (406) 892-0946, 892-0948.

**Size:** 57,570 (514 acres growth since 9/8)                      **total personnel:** 574                      **containment:** 60%

**Status:** Wetting rains of .52 of an inch arrived over the fire yesterday; temporarily halting the fire's spread.

**Outlook:** Mopping up and controlling of the fire lines will continue. Rehabilitation of cooler portions of the fire will also continue.

**TRAPPER CREEK COMPLEX** (Trapper Creek fire, Paul Bunyan fire, Trout Creek and Wolf Gun Fire) Located in Glacier National Park, 45 miles north of Kalispell, MT. Fire Information: (406) 892-0946, 892-0948.

**Complex size – 29,850    Trapper Creek: size – 19,150 acres, Containment - 45%    Wolf Gun: size – 10,700 acres, Containment - 50% 3) total personnel: 3**

**Status:** Wetting rains of .52 of an inch arrived over the fire yesterday; temporarily halting the fire's spread.

**Outlook:** All fires remain in a monitoring status and aerial monitoring of fire activity will continue. Extremely dry fuels, inaccessible terrain, and the remote nature of this fire preclude containment and confinement.

**WEDGE CANYON FIRE** Located on the Flathead National Forest and Glacier National Park, north of Polebridge, MT and six miles south of the Canadian border. Fire Information (801) 413-0525.

**Size:** 51,200(decrease shows better mapping)                      **total personnel:** 643                      **containment:** 87%

**Status:** The fire received approximately .3 of an inch of rain yesterday. A rehabilitation plan was begun.

**Outlook:** Continuation of the rehabilitation plan and detection of hot spots in areas with structures. Monitoring and taking of appropriate action on the uncontrolled perimeter in the park will continue, while also taking actions to prevent the fire from spreading into Canada.

**A public meeting at Polebridge will be held tonight at 8:00 pm. This will be the last regular occurring meeting.**