



NEWS RELEASE

Central Idaho Dispatch
Salmon - Challis National Forest,
Salmon Field Office, Idaho Falls
District, BLM
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Salmon, Idaho 83467



~~Public and firefighter safety is the highest priority in fighting all wildland fires.~~

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FIRE UPDATE

July 16, 2007 p.m.
Salmon, Idaho

New Fires

Quick action by helicopter rappellers and other firer fighters controlled 10 of the 15 fires started by lightning over the weekend. A lightning storm Friday, July 13 started the fires on the North Fork District and the Salmon-Cobalt District if the Salmon-Challis National Forest. Initial attack efforts kept each of the 10 fires to 1 acre or less. A six person crew has also controlled the Smith Fire at one acre in the head of the Pine Creek drainage 13 miles west of North Fork. The remaining four fires have burned a total of 300 acres south east of the Sagebrush Lookout in the Clear Creek drainage. These fires are in the area burned by the Clear Creek Fire in 2000. "These four fires are burning within the Clear Creek Fire perimeter in very steep rugged terrain in the Frank-Church River of No Return Wilderness. Because of our concern for fire-fighter safety we will manage the fires using a confine/contain strategy, similar to that being used on the Bohanan Fire," said North Fork District Ranger Russ Bacon.

Four new fires were started by lightning on the south zone of the Forest. Fire is burning at Van Horn Creek in the Morgan Creek drainage 16 miles north east of Challis. One 20 person fire crew and an incident commander are working on the 5.5 acre fire. The Tappen Fire, in the Tappen Creek drainage, has burned five acres in the Frank-Church River of No Return Wilderness. It will be managed using a Wildland Fire Use strategy which will allow fire to play its natural role in the wilderness. The fire will be analyzed and carefully monitored. Two other small fires in the wilderness were suppressed and controlled, one near Greyhound Creek and another near Camas Creek.

Basin Fire

Forty firefighters and one engine continue working on the 200 acre Basin Fire to complete suppression activities. The 200 acre fire, seven miles northeast of Stanley, started by human activity July contained July 11 at 10 p.m. Crews are extinguishing remaining hot spots. Highway 75 is open. However, motorists should be alert for fire related traffic in the area.

Bohannon

The Bohannon Fire, ten miles east of Salmon is burning in extremely rugged, rocky terrain, and is being managed using a confine/contain strategy. “Our primary concern is the safety of firefighters and the public,” said BLM Field Manager Steve Hartmann. “We will be taking those actions needed to protect life and property, but, the low commodity values of the area do not justify a large expenditure of money to suppress this fire.” A team of fire specialists arrived in Salmon today to analyze the fire and assist local BLM managers in developing a confinement strategy.

Fire Restrictions

Because of increase fire activity and continuing hot dry weather Stage 1 Fire Restrictions will go into effect Thursday, July 19, on the Salmon-Challis National Forest. (See accompanying news release).