



NW Montana Joint Information Center

Fire Update

September 13, 2003, 10:00 A.M.

Center Hours 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Phone # (406) 755-3910

www.fs.fed.us/nwacfire

THE JOINT INFORMATION CENTER IS MOVING! BEGINNING MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, OUR NEW PHONE NUMBER WILL BE (406) 758-6491. OUR HOURS WILL BE FROM 7:00 AM TO 7:00 PM.

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: 1,099

containment: 30%

Size: Blackfoot Lake Fires – 17,086 acres

For entire complex

For entire complex

Size: Ball Fire – 7,520 acres

Status: Single tree torching and ground fire with flame lengths less than one foot were observed. Scattered showers over the complex kept the fire activity to a minimum. Progress was made with direct line on the Ball Fire.

Outlook: Continuation of direct line construction on the Ball Fire and mop up on the Beta/Doris Fire and Blackfoot Lake Fires where it is accessible.

CRAZY HORSE FIRE Located on private and Flathead National Forest land, 8 miles south of Condon, MT. Fire Information: (406) 755-3910

Size: 11,300 acres

total personnel: 42

containment: 95%

Status: Rain, snow and high humidities limited the fire's behavior yesterday to smoldering hotspots. The rain and snow continued intermittently through the night until late morning.

Outlook: Continue patrol, mop-up and rehab outside and inside the Wilderness. This will be the last update given on the Crazy Horse Fire unless new information is received.

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

Size: 86,050 acres

total personnel: 34

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 41,700 acres (Little Salmon, Pagoda Mtn., Lime Creek, Independence Park, Salmon Point, Casey Creek, South Spud, Bartlett & Little Hammer) and **8 modified-suppression fires** that total 44,350 acres and include Gordon, Gyp, Crimson, Molly Creek, Leota, Some Creek, Mid, and High Fires. Creeping and smoldering was observed yesterday on the fires with some active tree torching occasionally. Due to reduced fire behavior and precipitation, the area closures were reduced down to much closer to the fire perimeters. Transition began with the local fire use management organization.

Outlook: Continuation of trail clearance work and hazard tree removal. Breakdown and removal of structure protection fire apparatus will also continue.

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: 11,851 acres (672 acres growth since 9/11) **total personnel:** 47 **containment:** 20%

Status: Slow burning surface fire in areas of dense canopy and heavy ground fuel. Smoldering ground fire was observed in areas of open canopy.

Outlook: Continuation of structure protection, monitoring, reconnaissance, aerial suppression.

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: 24,488 (991 acres growth since 9/11) **total personnel:** 4 **containment:** 10%

Status: Slow burning surface fire in areas of dense canopy and heavy ground fuel. Smoldering ground fire was observed in areas of open canopy.

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:** 484 **containment:** 60%

Status: Slow burning surface fire in areas of dense canopy and heavy ground fuel. Smoldering ground fire was observed in areas of open canopy. Some hot spots are still being seen through out the fire.

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: Slow burning surface fire in areas of dense canopy and heavy ground fuel. Smoldering ground fire was observed in areas of open canopy.

Outlook: All fires remain in a monitoring status and aerial monitoring of fire activity will continue.

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: 53,315 **total personnel:** 396 **containment:** 87%

Status: Minimal fire activity, smoldering and creeping, was observed.

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, limited suppression actions are planned in the Park.