



Wildfire Fact Sheet

Media Contact: Amy Baumer
(Public Affairs Officer); 208-756-7853
Email: SM.FS.SCFFIREINFO@usda.gov
Web: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/scnf/>
Twitter: [@salmonchallisnf](https://twitter.com/salmonchallisnf)
Facebook: [@salmonchallisnf](https://facebook.com/salmonchallisnf)

CHILCOOT FIRE

August 16, 2023

Stanley, Idaho

Fire Name: Chilcoot

Fire Size: Infrared flight on August 13 mapped the fire at 11.5 acres. Acreage will be updated after next infrared flight.

Cause: lightning

Location: Two (2) miles northeast of Pistol Lake between Browning and Little Pistol Creeks on the western edge of Middle Fork Ranger District in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. The Chilcoot Fire is surrounded by previous fires including the Cascade Complex (2007), Kiawah (2018), Pistol (2018), and Buck (2020) Fires.

Fuels: spruce and fir

Fire spread: The fire is burning in heavy dead and down fuels with group tree torching. The fire is increasing in size each day with fire movement primarily down into Garand Creek.

Planned actions: Firefighter and public safety is the number one priority for the Chilcoot Fire. When the fire was initially sized up, fire managers initiated actions to suppress the fire. Due to the remote location of the fire, the steep and inaccessible terrain along with lack of safe ingress and egress for firefighters, fire managers changed strategy, keeping firefighter safety in mind. Fire managers will be monitoring the fire by remote camera and reconnaissance flights. Values at risk in the area have been identified and trigger points have been established. If a trigger point is reached, additional actions will be taken by firefighters in order to protect those values at risk.

Weather: Hot and dry conditions continue today. Southerly flow increases into Thursday, continuing the warm temperatures and bringing a threat of thunderstorms late in the day. Daytime humidities rise above critical levels on Friday, and the threat for thunderstorms continues.

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