California

BITTERROOT WILDLAND FIRE USE COMPLEX

August 27th 7:00 am Fire Update

Fire Complex Location: Bitterroot National Forest in the Selway Bitterroot and Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, west of Darby, Montana

Fire Complex Acreage: 18,706 acres

Fire Complex Status: Most of the fires started on July 18. The BH fire started on August 16 and the Ingomar Fire was added to the complex on August 22. Some of the fires have burned together or become inactive. Many of these fires may continue burning throughout the fire season while resource and fire management objectives continue to be met.

The numerous lightning fires in the wilderness have been grouped into four geographic areas within the Bitterroot Wildland Fire Use Complex:

Sawtooth area- fire in the Sawtooth Creek drainage: Ingomar fire (76 acres)

White Cap area- fires north of Cooper Point and Watchtower Peak includes: El Cap (4,363 acres), Capitain Creek (<1 acre), Watchtower (40 acres), and Snake (201).

Magruder area- fires south of the White Cap area and north of Salmon Mountain, and Storm Creek Flat includes: Indian (38 acres), South Saddle (406 acres), Magruder (3,735 acres), Magruder #2 (inactive), BH (693), Halfway Pete (4 acres), Haystack Creek (<1 acre), and Salamander fires (<1 acre).

Harrington Ridge area- fires south of the Magruder area, includes: Elkhorn (3,077 acres) and Harrington fires (6,073 acres).

CLOSURES!

Expect intermittent closures along the Magruder Corridor road between the Magruder crossing and Salmon Base Camp (to Elk Creek) during daylight operational periods or while active fire is burning. Closures may last 24 to 48 hours or until fire and debris are clear of the road.

Contacts:

Fire Information: www.inciweb.org or (406) 821-1213
Bitterroot National Forest: www.fs.fed.us/r1/bitterroot/
West Fork District Office: (406) 821-1213.

Monday's Activities

Active fire behavior was observed Sunday on the Magruder and South Saddle fires with surface fire and group tree torching.

Expect intermittent closures along the Magruder Corridor road during daylight operational periods or during active burning periods (see CLOSURES).

Heavier smoke from the Dog and Battle fires on the Nez Perce National Forest was experienced in drainages adjoining the Ingomar fire. The Ingomar fire itself was relatively inactive.

Expect poor visibility in the Magruder Corridor drainage during early morning hours.

Monday's Weather

Mostly sunny with slight cooling

Temperature: 63-75° F

Winds: West-northwest 7-11 mph with gusts up to 17 mph.

Relative Humidity: 22-28%

Smoke: Morning inversion breaking up by noon and some haziness expected throughout the afternoon from numerous fires in the area.

Wildland Fire Use

Wildland fire use events are naturally-ignited fires managed over a long period of time to restore the role of fire as a critical natural process.

Firefighting personnel and equipment that are available to the Fire Use Management Team are also available to quickly extinguish new fires or put out portions of current fires in areas where fire is undesirable.