

## Ravalli County Commissioners Office

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**From:** McKay, Tod G -FS <tgmckay@fs.fed.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 21, 2015 4:21 PM  
**Subject:** News Release: Rock Point Fire in Idaho  
**Attachments:** Rock Point - 7-21-15.docx



# FACT SHEET

## Rock Point Fire

**July 21, 2015**

**Contact:** Public Affairs Officer: Tod McKay  
**Phone:** 406-363-7122 / **Cell:** 406-531-1130

**What:** Wildland Fire

**Detected:** July 17 - Lightning caused

**Location:** Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest in Idaho in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness. Fire is approximately 3 miles west of the Montana/Bitterroot National Forest border.

**Narrative:** Fire activity increased yesterday on the Rock Point fire located in Idaho's Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, three miles west of the Montana border. The fire is burning actively in the Bear Creek drainage, five miles west of Bear Creek Pass in subalpine fir and brush. It was detected last Friday and despite numerous hours of bucket work by a helicopter, the fire continues to grow. It increased from 40 to approximately 120 acres yesterday.

It is burning in steep, rugged, and rocky terrain, near the top of a ridge at 7,400 feet, making it extremely difficult for firefighters to access. This afternoon, a helicopter is flying pumps and other equipment into firefighters who will construct hose lays from nearby Bear Creek, to try and keep the fire from crossing Bear Creek Trail. It has currently burned within 500 feet of the trail.

**Current Size:** Estimated 120 acres      **Containment:** 0%

**Latitude/Longitude:** 46° 06.6 x 114° 35.4

**Resources on Fire:** 11 firefighters with the Selway Wildland Fire Module. The crew is highly qualified in fire ground operations and can operate self-sufficiently in wilderness areas. They

are spiked out (camped) near the fire and are looking for opportunities to suppress it, without compromising firefighter safety.

**Terrain:** Extremely steep, rocky, and inaccessible terrain. More than 4.5 miles from the trailhead. Firefighters hiked in to the fire on Saturday.

**Safety Concerns:** Firefighter safety remains a primary concern due to the remote location and steep and rugged terrain.

**Smoke:** As temperatures warm in the afternoon, the fire will likely produce some smoke visible around the Lost Horse and Lake Como areas.

**Weather:** The National Weather Service is calling for a higher impact fire weather period beginning tomorrow and continuing into Friday. Isolated thunderstorms, gusty winds, frequent lightning, and widespread showers are all in the forecast.

**Closures:** There is no threat to structures or closures at this time.

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**Tod McKay**  
**Public Affairs Officer**

**Forest Service**  
**Bitterroot National Forest**

p: 406-363-7122

c: 406-531-1130

[tgmckay@fs.fed.us](mailto:tgmckay@fs.fed.us)

1801 N. First

Hamilton, MT 59840

[www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot](http://www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot)



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