FACT SHEET

Wildfire Update

September 5, 2017

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What: West Fork Ranger District – Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Fires
Location: Bitterroot National Forest – West Fork Ranger District

The **Nelson Creek** fire was discovered August 28th by the Bare Cone Lookout. The fire is located approximately 3 miles west of the West Fork Ranger Station near Nelson Creek Trailhead. It's currently estimated at 280 acres and is 45% contained. 45 firefighters are holding, patrolling and mopping up hot spots on this fire.

Terrain & Fuels: The fire is burning in extremely steep, rugged, and remote terrain and in heavy timber.

Fire Activity: Includes low intensity surface fire with pockets of single tree and group tree torching.

Cause: Lightning

Today's Plan: Hold and improve dozer and handline. Utilize air resources including helicopters to assist with bucket work to control fire spread to the northeast of Nelson Creek. Utilize the hose lay along Nelson Creek to keep the fire southwest of Nelson Creek.

Containment: 45%

Weather: A warm and dry day is expected today as a ridge of high pressure builds over the area. Relative humidity will drop down into the teens with variable winds.

Evacuations: Area residents are in an evacuation warning. Residents are encouraged to sign-up to receive AlertSense Emergency Notifications by following the link on the free Ravalli County Sheriff's app for mobile devices or the Ravalli County website at http://ravalli.us/

Inciweb: For the latest on the Nelson Creek Fire visit https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5549

The **Green Ridge Complex** fires, are a complex of 6 fires burning in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness, near Spot Mountain. They are located approximately 4 miles southwest of Paradise, 28 miles west of West Fork Ranger District. A few of these fires burned together, creating the largest of the fires, the Eagle fire, at 1,988 acres. Total acres for the complex is 2,222 acres. These fires were started by lightning. Flames have made their way to within 1/3 of a mile to Spot Mountain lookout, therefore firefighters wrapped Spot Mountain lookout with flame resistant material. They are also doing structure assessment from Running Creek Ranch to Paradise, also Paradise to Magruder Crossing. The Incident Management Team overseeing the Nelson fire, is also managing this complex of fires. Due to limited resources, and the fact that these fires are far from values at risk, there are 15 firefighters assigned to this complex.

Terrain & Fuels: The fire is burning in extremely steep, rugged, and remote terrain and in heavy timber.

Fire Activity: Active surface fire with group tree torching and short crown runs.

Cause: Lightning

Containment: 0%

The **Gardner Peak** fire, located 8 miles north of Paradise, was started yesterday by lightning. It is 48 acres and 4 firefighters are protecting the Gardner Peak lookout, where flames made it to within 75 feet of the structure.

Terrain & Fuels: The fire is burning in extremely steep, rugged, and remote terrain and in heavy timber.

Fire Activity: Active surface fire with single and group tree torching.

Cause: Lightning

Containment: 0%

The **Meyers Fire**, located 25 miles southwest of Phillipsburg, and has burned over onto the Bitterroot National Forest in the East Fork drainage. This fire is currently 54,814 acres. Overall fire activity moderated due to lower temperatures, smoky skies shading the fire, and a reduction in wind speed. Smoke limited helicopter use, but they were able to support water bucket drops southwest of Kaiser Lake up the Senate Creek drainage. Pumps and sprinklers are in working order around the residences. Frog Pond and Moose Lake structures have not been damaged by the fire growth around them. At the Springer Memorial and Bonanza Lands area, the hand line and machine line under constructions were prepped and brought in closer to the existing subdivisions. The containment dropped from five percent to zero based on the increases fire perimeter on Sunday.

Evacuations: The Frog Pond and Moose Lake areas are under an evacuation order. Additionally, an evacuation warning is in effect on East Fork Rd from FS Rd 5778 to Little East Fork Rd (FS RD 724) on the Bitterroot National Forest. Those under an evacuation warning should be prepared to leave at a moment's notice.

Restrictions/Closures: Closure orders are in place on both National Forests. Bitterroot National Forest emergency closure orders are in effect for upper areas of the East Fork Bitterroot River. Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest has an emergency closure order around the fire extending into the Anaconda Pintler Wilderness.

For the latest on the Meyers Fire visit https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5397

The **Hidden Fire**, located in Idaho, west of Victor in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness has grown to 10,335 acres. It was active on both the east and west Sunday, with continued growth south of the confluence of Colt Killed and Big Sand Creeks and within the Big Flat Creek drainage. Infrared imagery shows two spot fires crossed the Idaho/Montana border into the Fred Burr Creek drainage on the Bitterroot National Forest, within 500 feet of the border. If conditions allow, helicopter water drops on the spots may occur today. Trail closures remain in effect for the safety and protection of the public. Smoke is expected to impact the local area as well as the Bitterroot and Missoula Valleys.

For the latest on the Hidden Fire visit https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5446/#

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