Elkhorn Fire Strategy

The strategies for the Elk Horn Fire are point protection and confine/contain to protect values at private property, FS administrative sites and high value infrastructure along the Main Salmon River Corridor and in the Salmon River Breaks area.

protect values at risk.

Strategic Risk Analysis: SA_1: DIV A & DIV K: Overall strategy is confine/contain. Specific strategic actions include constructing indirect handline from Whitewater Ranch north to Dixie Fire. Extend from Dixie Fire north with mixed mechanical indirect line construction. Strategic actions address MAPs 7, 9 and 17 to

SA_2: DIV M: Overall all strategy is point protection. Specific strategic actions include prepping identified values along the Magruder Corridor as needed. MAPs addressed by strategic actions include 8, 10,11, 12 and 13.

SA_3: DIV Q & DIV W: Overall strategy is point protection for values at risk along the Salmon River Corridor. Specific strategic actions include setting up necessary structure protection equipment to protect values at risk. Continue communication & coordination of recreation/outfitter river users. Strategic actions address MAPs 1, 3,4 and 14.

MAP 1 - China Rhett/Fivemile

Condition: Fire reaches MAP line with the potential to reach China/Lemhi, and Rhett Creek Bridge/Reho Wolfe in the next 48-72 hours. Description: The MAP begins at the head of Spring Creek on the north side of the Main Salmon River and travels south to cross the Main Salmon River then up Ruff Creek and into Upper Lemhi Creek.

Values at Risk: China Bar/Lehmi Bar

 Rhett Creek Bridge/Reho Wolfe Cabins Fivemile Bar

Action: Consider actions based on current and forecasted fire weather and behavior, the time of season and probability of a season-ending event.

1. Consider expanding the area closure and planning area.

2. IC to notify AA of structure protection implementation. 3. IC/AA to update river coordination and information between forests.

4. China Bar/Lemhi Bar/Rhett/Reho structure preparation is complete and in place. Begin implementing structure protection operations. 5. Consider placing supply order and inserting personnel into Fivemile Bar to set up structure protection.

Note: As river levels decrease over the season, jet boars used for transport will be of smaller size. Ingress/egress transport of personnel and

equipment will take more time and more trips. Also, poor visibility resulting from smoke in the river canyon will impact the availability of jet boats to travel up and down the river.

See China Bar, Rhett, and Fivemile Bar Value at Risk Assessment documents located in the Elkhorn Incident Microsoft Teams folder: 2023_IDPAF_ElkHorn>Documents>Situation_Channel>Structure Protection Plans. See Accountable Property Map and Collector for water handling equipment associated with structure protection.

Resources: AA IC China/Lemhi/Rhett – 1 IHC or T2IA Fivemile Bar – 1 WFM

MAP 3 – Sheepeater

Condition: Fire reaches MAP3 line with potential to reach Sheepeater Lookout in the next 3 to 4 days. Description: From the headwaters of Fivernile Creek, the MAP runs northwest to Lemhi Point, then east to Trout Creek, turns SE ending at Flossie Lake.

Values at Risk: Sheepeater lookout

Outhouse

Consider actions based on current and forecasted fire weather and behavior, the time of season and probability of a season-ending event.

1. Consider expanding area closure. 2. Inform Agency Administrator of evacuation and protection action. 3. Evacuate lookout personnel.

4. Sheepeater is a metal lookout and repeater site on a large expanse of rock scree. Assess lookout building for any structure protection needs (wooden door, firewood, etc.). Wrap outhouse.

See the Sheepeater structure protection plan documents located in Elkhorn Incident Microsoft Teams folder:

Resources: AA IC T2 or T3 Helicopter/HEMG 2 FFT1 or FFT2

2023_IDPAF_ElkHorn>Documents>Situation_Channel>Structure Protection Plans.

MAP 4 - Chamberlain GS/Stonebreaker Ranch

Condition: Fire crosses MAP line with the potential to reach Chamberlain Guard Station/Stonebreaker Ranch (belongs to Idaho Fish and Game) in the next 5-6 days. Description: The MAP begins along the Highline Trail and runs northeast to Trail Point, then turns east ending at the headwaters of Big Bear Creek.

Chamberlain Guard Station

Stonebreaker Ranch

1. Consider actions based on current and forecasted fire weather and behavior, the time of season and probability of a season-ending event. 2. Notify Agency Administrator

3. Consider airstrip restrictions/closures and expanding area closure 4. Develop communication plan for Idaho Centennial Trail (ICT) hikers regarding potential trail closures.

5. Notify Idaho Fish and Game of potential threat to Stonebreaker Ranch 6. Consider evacuating non-fire forest service personnel and IDFW personnel at Stonebreaker Ranch.

7. Implement structure protection preparation on cabins, kiosks, and bridge.

See Chamberlain Guard station and Stonebreaker structure protection plans located in Elkhorn Incident Microsoft Teams folder: 2023_IDPAF_ElkHorn>Documents>Situation_Channel>Structure Protection Plans.

Resources: AA IC PIO Fixed Wing Aircraft for evacuations Chamberlain – 10 fire personnel & Stonebraker – 10 fire personnel, 3 days

MAP7 - Mallard-Cook

Condition: When the fire crosses the MAP and is expected to reach the ranches within 72 hours. Description: Along Forest Service Road 421 up to the Bat Point trailhead and then north up the ridge dividing Big Mallard Creek and East Fork Mallard Creek, then down Lone Park Creek to the 586 trail, then follow the 586 trail to Boston Mountain.

Mallard Creek Ranch

Cook Ranch

Consider actions based on current and forecasted fire weather and behavior, as well as the time of season and current probability of a season-ending

1. Consider expanding the area closure.

2. Communicate fire situation to Mallard and Cook Ranch residents. 3. Inform Agency Administrator of structure protection implementation.

4. Structure preparation is complete. Implement structure protection operations at Mallard Creek Ranch and Cook Ranch. Ensure READ is present to address any natural/cultural resource issues. 5. Consider implementing fire operation. See Elkhorn Branch I Firing Plan.

See Mallard and Cook Ranch structure protection plans located in Elkhorn Incident Microsoft Teams folder: 2023_IDPAF_ElkHorn>Documents>Situation_Channel>Structure Protection Plans.

See Accountable Property Map and Collector for water handling equipment associated with structure protection. Resources: AA IC PIO LOFR READ TFLD 2 – IHC 2 – T2IAHC 4 – T4/3 ENG 1 – T1 or T2 Helicopter

MAP 8 - Magruder

Condition: The fire crosses the M.A.P. and is expected to impact values with the next 5 to 6 days. Description: This M.A.P. starts at the junction of Forest Service trails 503 and 583 and follows the 583 trail to Boston Mtn and then down the 580 trail to the east to Bargamin Creek, then North up Bargamin Creek until it meets Forest Service trail 584 near Bleak Creek, then follow trail 584 east to its intersection with trail 575 near Upper Trilby Lake.

Magruder Corridor Infrastructure: Campgrounds, Road Signs, Upper Bargamin Creek Bridge (adjacent to Poet Creek CG)

Burnt Knob Lookout

Consider actions based on current and forecasted fire weather and behavior, the time of season and probability of a season-ending event. IC to provide notification to Nez Perce/Bitterroot AA and Recreation Staff of potential need for closure of the Magruder Road (FR468). Assess and

consider road closure or area closure. Provide road security and post reader boards during road closures. Assess and implement mitigation measures or structure protection actions to structures/infrastructure along the Magruder Corridor Road 468

including but not limited to: Granite Springs CG, Mountain Meadows CG, 14 Mile Trailhead, Poet Creek CG, Dry Saddle CG, and Burnt Knob historical lookout and repeater site. Coordinate with Resource Advisors to identify and mitigate potential impacts to archaeological or cultural values.

Resources: AA IC PIO LOFR LEO Road Guards Barricades/Closure Signs Structure Wrap 1 - IA Module with 6 personnel

MAP 9 - Dixie-Comstock Condition: When the fire crosses the M.A.P. and is predicted to reach the fire within 7-9 days

Description: This M.A.P. is located from where Noble creek meets Forest Service Road 421 and then follow the 421 road south to near Cow creek and Mallard creek join and then follows the Wilderness Boundary southwest until it intersects with Forest Service trail 213 and then follows the 213 trail to the Salmon River.

 Dixie/Dixie Work Center Comstock

Actions:

Consider actions based on current and forecasted fire weather and behavior, time of season and probability of a season-ending event.

1. Assess and implement structure protection or fuels mitigation options for identified values in the town of Dixie, the Comstock area, Mammoth Mine, Dixie Work Center. 2. IC to notify AA. Consider evacuation notices for residents of Dixie-Comstock.

3. Identify additional values within the planning area.

4. Consider expanding area closure and planning area.

See Comstock structure protection plans located in Elkhorn Incident Microsoft Teams folder:

2023_IDPAF_ElkHorn>Documents>Situation_Channel>Structure Protection Plans. See Accountable Property Map and Collector for water handling equipment associated with structure protection.

Contact Aubree Chaffee, Prevention Technician, Red River RD, 208-842-2122, Aubree.chaffee@usda.gov, for the Dixie Structure Protection Plan

Resources: AA IC PIO LOFR LEO SOP Operations - see structure plans for details

MAP 10 - Arctic Lodge/River of No Return Lodge/Blackie Foster Cabin/Lantz Bar Condition: Fire reaches the MAP with potential to reach Arctic Lodge and River of No Return Ranch in the next 4 days. Description: The MAP begins at the headwaters of Big Bear Creek and runs SE to the Main Salmon River crossing at Hancock Rapids traveling upslope to the SW ending at

NOTE: Jet boat operations are contingent on visibility which may be compromised by smoke and daylight conditions. The visibility required to navigate the river safely between sites varies depending on boat operator, boat type, number of personnel on boat, water level and time of day. Be aware of changing conditions in the river corridor and confer with the boat operator ahead of time to know what level of visibility they require.

Values at Risk:

 Arctic Lodge River of No Return Ranch/Blackie Foster Cabin

Actions: Consider actions based on current and forecasted fire weather and behavior, time of season and probability of a season-ending event.

1. Arctic Lodge/River of No Return Ranch: Structure preparation is complete. Implement structure protection operations, which will require the insertion of personnel via jetboat. The number of personnel required for the operation should be limited to ensure the jet boat is light and can move quickly. The personnel will move to the Arctic Lodge and River of No Return Ranch to start pumps, then leave. The pumps with an estimated run time of 3 hours will need to be refueled multiple times over the days ahead of the fires advance to maintain high levels of relative

2. Lantz Bar: Implement structure protection preparation. This shall include the Orchard as well as the three structures on site. The creek on site has been used in the past to successfully defend both the cabins and orchard with adequate pressure and volume utilizing gravity socks. Up to 30 sprinkler heads were simultaneously operated via this method.

3. Utilize the Salmon River Coordination and Communication Plan to discuss consideration of closing the river corridor to the public at the Corn Creek boat ramp. Consider the safety of the PIOs/READs located on the river and possibly moving them to a different location upriver.

See structure protection plans for these sites located in Elkhorn Incident Microsoft Teams folder: 2023_IDPAF_ElkHorn>Documents>Situation_Channel>Structure Protection Plans.

NOTE: Jetboat is the only viable option for insertion and extraction of personnel at Arctic Lodge and RONR/Blackie Foster Cabin. There are no landing zones near the sites. Logistics, unobservable fire behavior, environmental conditions, and the judgment of resources on the ground should all be considered when deciding how often the pumps are refueled.

Resources: AA/IC Lantz Bar: 9 personnel, 1 day to plumb orchard and cabins Arctic Lodge/River of No Return Ranch: jet boat with operator, CRWB, 2 FFT1s.

See Accountable Property Map and Collector for water handling equipment associated with structure protection.

Condition: Fire crosses MAP with the potential to reach Lantz Bar in the next 4 days. Description: The MAP runs from Hamilton Point down to Hamilton Creek to the Main Salmon River and up Big Bear Creek on the south side of the river.

MAP 11 - Lantz Bar Planning Area

Lantz Bar cabins Orchard

Actions: Consider current and forecasted fire weather and behavior, as well as the time of season and the current probability of a season-ending

1. Consider expanding the planning area to include the Salmon-Challis NF. Obtain objectives, requirements, values at risk and other relevant information from the forest for a new WFDSS decision.

2. Utilize the Salmon River Coordination and Communication Plan to discuss consideration of closing the river corridor to the public at the Corn Creek boat ramp. Consider the safety of the PIOs/READs located on the river and possibly moving them to a different location upriver. 3. 3Begin implementing structure protection operations at Lantz Bar followed via jet boat insertion. The crew conducting structure protection may consider utilizing the creek as the sole water source if it can effectively be done. This will enable resources to leave Lantz Bar earlier, building in

margin, as the primary escape to safety is contingent on jet boat operation. Should pumps be used and firefighters required on site to start or refuel them, the crew may consider boating out supplies and personnel not necessary for structure protection operations ahead of the fires final

advance, to enable the personnel required for structure protection operation the ability to leave quickly. See Lantz Bar structure protection plan located in Elkhorn Incident Microsoft Teams folder:

2023_IDPAF_ElkHorn>Documents>Situation_Channel>Structure Protection Plans. See Accountable Property Map and Collector for water handling equipment associated with structure protection.

Resources: AA IC 10 person WFM Jet Boat/Operator

MAP 12 - Swet Lake Cabin

Condition: If fire appears likely to cross the MAP and is expected to impact Swet Lake Cabin within the next 3 to 4 days. Description: The MAP begins in the 2007 Harrington Ridge Fire, crosses Harrington Creek to the SE, and then east into the 2007 Elkhorn Fire.

Actions: Consider actions based on current and forecasted fire weather and behavior, time of season and probability of a season-ending event. Consider implementing structure protection of the cabin, barn and outhouse.

Resources: 1 - 5 person module Structure wrap 2 - Ladders and miscellaneous tools Structure wrap kit (can be provided by the Bitterroot NF), contact Bret Lewis @ 406-396-0407

MAP 13 - Magruder East Condition: Fire crosses MAP or is expected to impact Road 468 (Magruder/Elk City corridor road) within the next 5 days. Description: The MAP

begins on the ridge just west of Upper Tribley Lake, travels south to along the ridge to Saddle Lake, then turns east and travels to Ring Creek point, down the ridge to Sabe Creek, south along Sabe Creek, then turns east following Hamilton Creek ending approximately one mile west of Witter Point.

Horse Heaven Cabin

 Salmon Mtn Lookout Magruder Corridor

1. IC to provide notification to Nez Perce/Bitterroot AA and Recreation Staff of potential need for closure of the Magruder Road (FR468). Assess and consider road closure or area closure.

2. Provide road security and post reader boards during road closures.

3. Consider implementing protection of infrastructure at Dry Saddle CG, Sabe Saddle, Sabe Vista and miscellaneous signs along the corridor. 4. Consider implementing structure protection of the infrastructure at Horse Heaven Cabin and Salmon Mtn lookout.

Magruder Corridor Road (FR468) - AA, IC, LOFR PIO Road Guards Barricades/Closure Signs, Structure Wrap 1 - IA Module with 3 personnel Horse Heaven Cabin – 1 - 5 person module Structure wrap kit (Can be provided by the Bitterroot NF), contact Bret Lewis, AFMO @ 406-396-0407 2 Ladders and miscellaneous tools

Salmon Mtn Lookout - 1 Regional Structure Wrap Module, order through GBCC or contact John Wallace, Program Manager, @208-781-2596, Structure wrap Structure wrap kit (Can be provided by the Bitterroot NF), Contact Bret Lewis AFMO @406-396-0407 2 Ladders and miscellaneous tools Fall protection equipment

MAP 14 - Chamberlain Bridge

5. Coordinate with Resource Advisors to identify and mitigate potential impacts to archaeological or cultural values.

Condition: Fire reaches MAP and has the potential to reach Chamberlain Bridge in 5 days. Description: The MAP begins at the Main Salmon River following the Arctic Creek drainage south to the 2017 Highline Fire.

Chamberlain Bridge

. Consider expanding fire area closure.

2. Consider expanding WFDSS planning area.

3. Implement bridge structure protection. It will take two days to insert personnel, wrap bridge, and hike out to Root Ranch for pickup. See bridge description document located in Elkhorn Incident Microsoft Teams folder:

2023_IDPAF_ElkHorn>Documents>Situation_Channel>Structure Protection Plans.

Resources: AA fire closure, WFDSS planning area change.

Bridge Protection - Plan for 2 full days to complete this mission. Accessible only by rappel. 4 Rappelers Structure Wrap (4 rolls) Demob: Hike to Root Ranch (approximately 11 miles), helicopter pickup at Root Ranch. This is a private inholding and approval must be

MAP 17 - Whitewater

obtained for landing here. Contact Tammy Overacker, flyingresort@gmail.com, 208-756-6295, cell 208-940-0141.

Condition: The fire crosses the MAP or threatens access to Whitewater Ranch via the 421 Big Mallard Creek Road. Description: the MAP begins at the confluence of the Main Fork of Big Mallard Creek and the Main Salmon River and travels north up the Big Mallard Creek drainage.

Values:

 Whitewater Wilderness Ranch 421 Road containment line

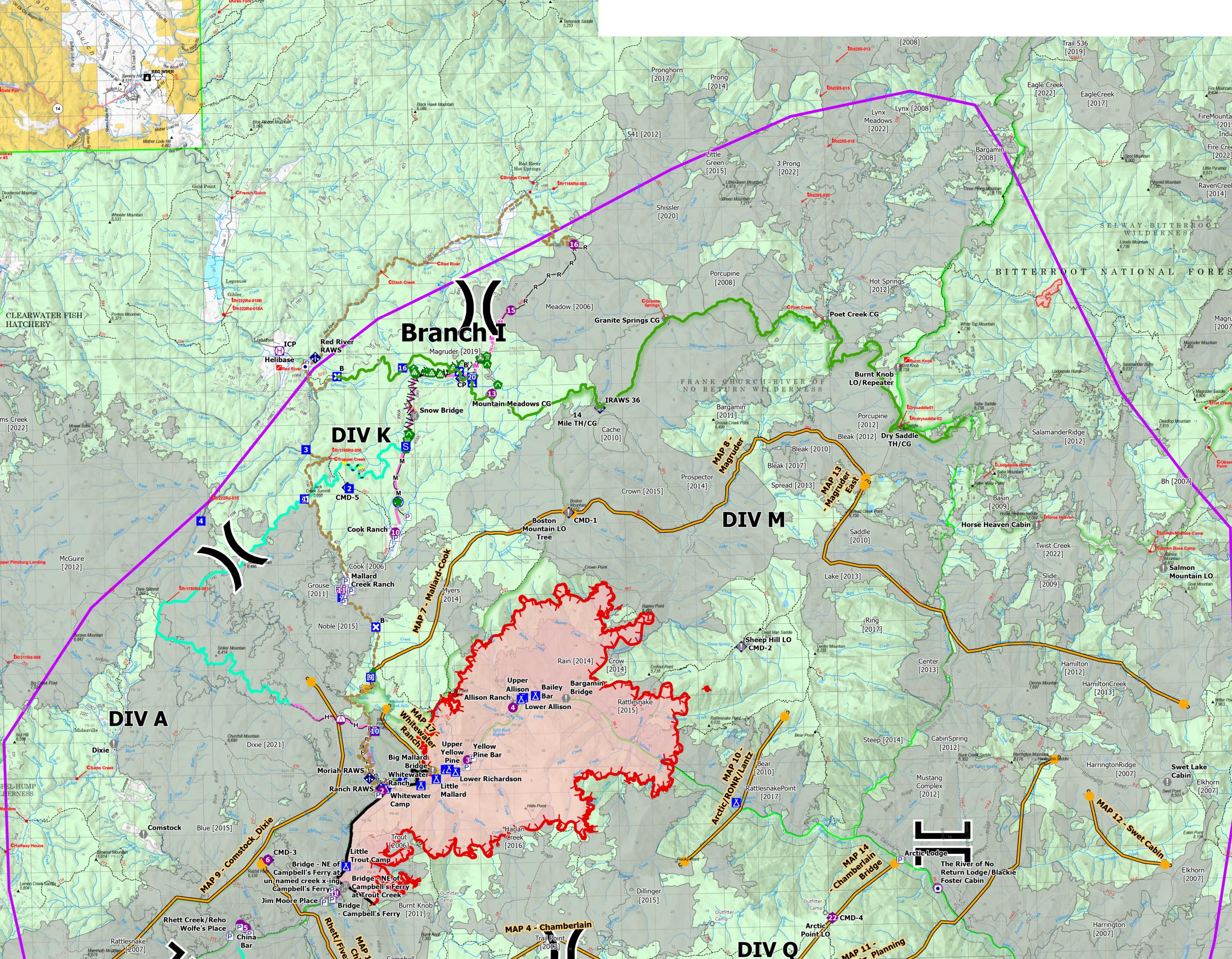
Consider actions based on current and forecasted fire weather and behavior, time of season and probability of a season-ending event.

Structure preparation is complete. Insert personnel into Whitewater Ranch to implement structure protection operations. 2. Consider firing operations utilizing 421 road/handline to protect Whitewater Ranch and keep fire east of containment lines.

See structure protection plans for Whitewater Wilderness Ranch located in Elkhorn Incident Microsoft Teams folder: 2023_IDPAF_ElkHorn>Documents>Situation_Channel>Structure Protection Plans.

See Accountable Property Map and Collector for water handling equipment associated with structure protection. **Resources:** Structure Protection: WFM1 or T2IA crew Firing Operation: 4 IHC or 4 T2IAHC

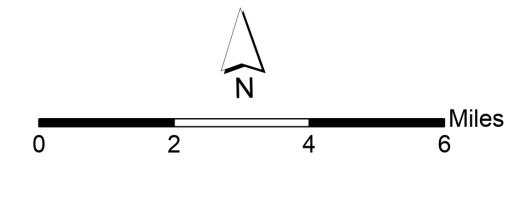
Outfitter/Guide Considerations Outfitter/Guides will begin using camps September 1st. As fire season progresses, monitor fire behavior and movement with respect to the camps. An area closure may be necessary and alternate sites identified if fire activity makes it unsafe to utilize current camps. Outfitter/Guide contact information: Nez Perce Clearwater Forest Silver Spur Outfitter Rick Koesel Rick has spike camps to the west/northwest of the Elk Horn fire. Rick has stated that he has made plans with the Forest to go elsewhere, outside the closure area, confirmed by Doug Olive from the Forest Service. **Bitterroot Outfitters** Brandon Jensen 775-625-0140 j-a_jensen@hotmail.com Brandon has spike camps to the northeast of the Elk Horn fire in the following locations. Deadman Saddle: N45.595973, W115.065685 • Rattlesnake: N45.56588, W-115.05455 Alternative camps would be across Sabe Creek from the 2 listed above. Brandon is looking for confirmation of these location prior to September 1st and would set up those camps at that time with hunters confirmed for September 14. Payette National Forest Mackay Bar Outfitters and Guest Ranch Bitterroot Outfitter LLC Buck and Joni Dewey Tom Henderson PO Box 340 907 W Cow Creek Road Inside the Planning Area Grangeville, ID 83530 Hamilton, MT 59840 208-816-2002, 208-983-2570 info@idahohunts.net 406-363-0403 Mile High Outfitters of Idaho, INC Wilderness Mule Outfitting, LLC Flying Resort Ranches, INC Travis Bullock Salmon River Lodge Caleb Viano ammy Overacker Zach Davis – manager PO Box 1189 PO Box 124 9 Hamner Drive Bordering the Planning Area Riggins, ID 83549 Challis, ID 83226 Salmon, Idaho 83467 208-879-4500 208-921-7749 208-756-6295 208-534-8385



Strategy & M.A.P.s

Elkhorn IDPAF002673 26,048 Acres 8/24/2023





II Branch Break

Drop Point Closure Camp Staging Area Value at Risk

Other

Incident Command Post Bridge Repair Point Landing or Log Deck Culvert Clean Up Area

Internet Access

Water Source ∧∧ Completed Fuel Break H— Completed Hand Line R— Completed Road as Line

Repeater --- Other M— Completed Mixed Construction Line Road Repair

PAYETTE

Branch V

Planned Mixed Construction Line

Guard Station

NATIONAL FOREST

— Access or Improved Road Highlighted Feature Management Action Point

Uncontained

PACE Alternate Primary Contained

Wildfire Daily Fire Perimeter Pending Planning Area GBT2 8/23/2023 2253 Acres from 08/15/2023 2345 PDT North American 1983 Datum. LatLong Grid