

Cherry Peak Fire



INCIDENT ACTION PLAN

8/23/2026

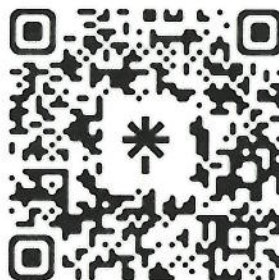
Operational Period 0600-2100

Lolo National Forest, Region 1

P1SX9J26 (0116)

SABHRS: 906492

MT-LNF-260379



INCIDENT OBJECTIVES	1. Incident Name Cherry Peak	2. Date Prepared 8/22/2026	3. Time Prepared 1600
4. Operational Period August 23, 2026 DAY SHIFT 0600 - 2100			
5. Leader's Intent Success is defined as prioritizing responder and public safety while minimizing impacts/threats to identified values at risk. All incident actions must reflect a commitment to aviation, responder, and public safety. Use the risk management process outlined in the IRPG, adhere to the 10 Standard Firefighting Orders, and mitigate the 18 Situations That Shout Watch Out and LCES. If a tactical hazard cannot be mitigated to an acceptable level of risk, do not proceed until mitigation is in place.			
6. Incident Objectives 1. On the Cherry Peak Fire, execute a full suppression strategy utilizing direct and indirect tactics to minimize impacts to values at risk and firefighter exposure. 2. Prevent or minimize fire impacts to these prioritized values: private residences and property in the Cherry Creek drainage, Private and Federal timber sales, and the Eddy Mountain Lookout. 3. Provide Initial Attack within the TFR (Temporary Flight Restriction). 4. Consider operational strategies and tactics that minimize smoke impacts to communities and private landowners.			
7. Attachments (X - if attached)			
☒ Organization List - ICS 203	☒ Air Ops Sum. - ICS 220	☒ WF206 8 Line	
☒ Division Assignment Lists - ICS 204	☒ Medical Plan - ICS 206	☐ Fire Behavior	
☒ Communication Plan - ICS 205	☒ Unit Log 214	☒ Weather	
8. Prepared By (Planning Section Chief)		9. Approved By (Incident Commander)	
Brittney M. Allestad		TREVOR UNSWORTH Trevor Unsworth	
ICS 202		NFES 1326	

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE CHART		7. Operations Section	
1. Incident Name Cherry Peak Fire		Operations	Wade Bache 406-531-6447
2. Date August 23, 2026			
3. Incident Commander and Staff			
Incident Commander	Trevor Unsworth 406-544-7562	Divisions	
Information Officer	Brandalyn Vonk (Virtual) 435-650-2694	Alpha	Cole Benson 406-552-2193 Erin Mattix (T) 928-592-3569
Safety Officer	Justin Randall 406-897-4606	Zulu	Kyle Ownsbey 530-643-9052 Patrick Grimes (T) 530-598-5454
4. Agency	Name		
USFS LNF AA	Cystal Stonesifer 406-210-7593 Curtis Rintz (T)		
Forest Supervisor	Ben Johnson Jeremy Casterson (Deputy)		
Forest Fire Staff Officer	Scott Schrenk 406-250-0354		
IBA	Amy Erickson 406-499-5609		
REAF	Kristin Richardson 514-619-4583		
5. Planning Section			
Chief	Brittney Allestad 406-207-7428		
GISS	Becky Howard (RIST)		
Documentation	Giafina Vaccaro (RIST)		
		Air Operations Branch	
		Forest Aviation Officer	Josh Klare 406-406-360-0875
6. Logistics Section		Helibase Manager	Andrew Nepstad 541-531-7260 Mark Troxell (T) 541-490-6146
Chief	Kasey Craft 406-261-9261 Heather Berman 406-210-5287		
Base Camp Manager	Logan Boyer (T) 406-274-0902		
Base Camp Manager	Josh Heise (T) 406-369-5724	8. Finance	
		Personal Time Recorder	Kara Altmiller 406-540-3451
9. Prepared by: Brittney Allestad, PSC3		Date/Time: 8/22/26 1600	

SAFETY MESSAGE

Remote Operations, Steep/Rugged Terrain

Execution in remote, technical terrain has been solid. This message reinforces standards already in practice — no changes, just a reminder, stay the course.

Continue to Ensure:

- LCES — recheck on terrain and fire behavior change
 - Primary and alternate egress confirmed at every work location
 - Alternate helispot and hiking paths identified
 - Medical response options known, with the limitations this terrain and access present clearly understood — adjust tactics and operational tempo accordingly
 - Pace for terrain — fatigue shows in footing first
 - Spacing maintained on loose/exposed slopes; call rock or roller
-

Bottom Line: You are professional operators working in demanding terrain, and it shows. Thank you for the discipline and skill you bring to this fire environment — good work doesn't go unnoticed. There are still several days ahead — keep bringing the same level of focus.

Fire Weather Forecast

August 23, 2026

RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT UNTIL 6 AM MDT SUNDAY

A Red Flag Warning is in effect through 6 AM Sunday for an overnight lightning threat focused Saturday night into early Sunday morning. Elevated fire weather is expected Sunday, following the passage of a cold front. Wind is the main concern Sunday as gusts reach 20-30 mph during the afternoon. Temperatures will trend 10-15F colder than yesterday, with RH trending higher. Southeast winds in the morning will shift to the west-southwest in the afternoon. High pressure rebounds on Monday, bringing a slight warming and dry trend, along with light winds.

SUNDAY

Sky/Weather: Mostly sunny.

CWR (> 0.10 Inch): 0 percent.

Chance Lightning: 0 percent.

Maximum Temperature: 68-73.

Minimum Humidity: 28-33 percent.

Wind (20 ft): Southeast 3-6 mph in the morning becoming west-southwest 10-15 mph in the afternoon with gusts of 20-30 mph.

Mixing Height: 3000 ft agl increasing to 7000 ft agl in the afternoon.

Mixing Winds: West 15 mph.

Precipitation Amount: 0.00 inches.

SUNDAY NIGHT

Sky/Weather: Mostly clear.

CWR (> 0.10 Inch): 0 percent.

Chance Lightning: 0 percent.

Minimum Temperature: 49-54.

Maximum Humidity: 52-57 percent.

Wind (20 ft): Southwest 4-7 mph. Gusts up to 20 mph in the evening.

Mixing Height: 5000 ft agl decreasing to 500 ft agl early in the evening.

Mixing Winds: West 10 mph.

Precipitation Amount: 0.00 inches.

MONDAY

Sky/Weather: Mostly sunny.

CWR (> 0.10 Inch): 0 percent.

Chance Lightning: 0 percent.

Maximum Temperature: 73-78.

Minimum Humidity: 23-28 percent.

Wind (20 ft): Southwest 3-6 mph.

Mixing Height: 2000 ft agl increasing to 8000 ft agl.

Mixing Winds: West 5 mph.

Precipitation Amount: 0.00 inches.

DIVISION ASSIGNMENT LIST			Branch		Division/Group				
Incident Name					Alpha				
Cherry Peak			Operational Period						
			Date 08/23/2026		Time 0600-2100				
Operations Personnel									
Safety Officer	Justin Randall 406-897-4606		Line Operations		Wade Bache 406-531-6447				
Branch			Planning Operations						
Division / Group Supervisor	Cole Benson 406-552-2193 Erin Mattix(T) 928-592-3569		Strategic Operations						
Work Assignments									
Strategic Action 1:									
Task: Continue mixed line construction using a direct suppression strategy from the division break at the heel of the fire to the division break at the head of the fire.									
Purpose: To keep fire in its current footprint and limit any fire growth to the South/West.									
End State: Direct mixed line is completed and fire is held to its current footprint.									
Resources Assigned This Period									
Strike Team/Task Force/ Resource Designator	Req #	Last Shift	Leader	# Persons	On Duty Location / Time	Off Duty Location / Time			
CRW1 Stanislaus IHC	C-4	9/3	Brandon Hull/Devon Herzog	22	Cherry Spike 0600	Sling 6 2100			
CRIA Palouse	C-3	9/2	Chad Borg/James Caneff (T)	20	H2 0600	H2 2100			
CRW2 Lolo Regulars	C-2	9/1	Kevin McGuire/Nick Jones (T)	19	Cherry Spike 0600	Sling 2 2100			
Price Valley Rappelers			Steve Harig	7	H2 0600	H2 2100			
Special Instructions									
Division/Group Communication Summary									
Function	Channel	Frequency RX	Tone RX	Frequency TX	Tone TX	Function	Channel	Frequency RX	Frequency TX
TAC	4	167.1125		167.1125		A/G Pri	6	164.7500	164.7500
CMD Repeater	2	172.3875		164.1750	131.8	A/G Sec	7	164.8000	164.8000
Ground Ambo	13	155.2800		155.2800	156.7				
Air Guard	16	168.6250		168.6250	110.9				
Prepared by Brittney M. Allestad		Approved By Brittney M. Allestad				Date 08/22/2026		Time 1800	
Total # of Line Resources:	70								

[illegible]

AIR OPERATIONS SUMMARY (ICS 220)

1. Incident Name: Cherry Peak MT-LNF-260379		2. Operational Period: Date From: 8/23/2026 Time From: 0600		Date To: 8/24/2026 Time To: 2200		3. Sunset: 20:38		Pumpkin: 21:08	
4. Remarks (safety notes, hazards, air operations special equipment, etc.): * River recreation in dip site locations SUNSET PROTOCOL- Recommended that tactical air operations be conducted only until sunset and to utilize the 30 minutes after sunset for flights back to an airport or helibase.		5. Ready Alert Aircraft: Medivac: Two Bear Air- Missoula Dispatch Life Flight Missoula/ Shorthaul in Butte							
7. Personnel:		Name:		Phone Number:		8. Frequencies:		AM	
Forest Aviation Officer		Josh Klare		406-360-0875		TFR		127.1750	
Helibase Manager		Andrew Nepstad		541-531-7260		A/A Secondary		123.4000	
Helispots		H-1		Cherry Peak		A/G Primary		164.7500	
		H-2		47 29.32 115 11.04		A/G Secondary		164.8000	
		H-3		47 29.96 115 10.80					
10. Helicopters (use additional sheets as necessary):									
FAA N#	Category/Kind/Type	Make/Model	Base	Available	Start	Remarks			
4RA	Type 1 EU	Chinook	Missoula Airport	0900	0800	NRGA/Bucket			
7WF	Type 3 EU	Bell 407	Plains Helibase	0830	0800	Forest IA			
6RA	Type 1 EU	Chinook	Libby	0900	0800	NRGA Lend/Lease			
8ES	Type 1 EU	Chinook	Kalispell	0900	0800	NRGA Lend/Lease			
332N (Rappel)	Type 1 EU	Super Puma	Missoula AFD	0830	0800	NRGA Lend/Lease			
11. Prepared by: Name: Josh Klare		Position/Title:		FAO		Signature:			
ICS 220, Page 1		Date/Time: 8/22/2026 1800							

INCIDENT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PLAN (ICS 205)

1. Incident Name: Cherry Peak		2. Date/Time Prepared: Date: 8/22/2026 Time: 1500	3. Operational Period: Date From: 8/23/2026 Date To: 8/23/2026 Time From: 0600 Time To: 2100
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4. Basic Radio Channel Use:

Zone Grp.	Ch #	Function	Channel Name/Trunked Radio System Talk group	RX Freq N or W	RX Tone N or AC	TX Freq N or W	TX Tone/NAC	Mode (A, D, or M)	Remarks
	1	W. DIRECT	DIRECT	172.3875		172.3875	127.3	A	
	2	W. REPEAT	EDDY MTN	172.3875		164.1750	131.8	A	
	3	TAC 2	DIV Z	167.6250		167.6250		A	DIV Z
	4	TAC 1	DIV A	167.1125		167.1125		A	DIV A
	5								
	6	A/G PRIMARY	A/G	164.7500		164.7500		A	CHERRY PK PRI
	7	A/G SEC	A/G	164.8000		164.8000		A	CHERRY PK SEC
	8	A/G 5	A/G 5	166.7500		166.7500		A	WEST ZONE A/G IA
	9	A/G 48	A/G 48	167.8875		167.8875		A	EAST ZONE A/G IA
	10								
	11	MUTUAL AID	RED	154.0700		154.0700	156.7	A	VFD
	12	AIR/MEDICAL	TAN	155.3400		155.3400	156.7	A	AIR TRANSPORT
	13	GROUND AMBO	WHITE	155.2800		155.2800	156.7	A	GROUND TRANSPORT
	14								
	15								
	16	AIRGUARD	AIRGUARD	168.625		168.625	110.9	A	EMERGENCY AIR

5. Special Instructions:

6. Prepared by: Name: KASEY CRAFT		Signature: <i>Kasey Craft</i>
ICS 205		Date/Time: 08/22/2026 1500

Finance Message

All resources will submit **Digital** CTRs & Shift Tickets. Time documents should be emailed daily to the finance inbox listed below.

Incident Finance email: **2026.cherrypeak.finance@firenet.gov**

Helpful Hints for Success!

- Hazard Pay – "H = Hazard Pay" is not a sufficient justification for hazard pay. Please elaborate in the remarks. (Ex. Hazard pay for working on an uncontrolled fireline.)

Shift Ticket/CTR Checklist:

- Signatures – Ensure your CTR is signed by your Incident Supervisor prior to digital submission.
- Resource Order # - Please make sure you list your resource order number in the upper right-hand box of your CTR.

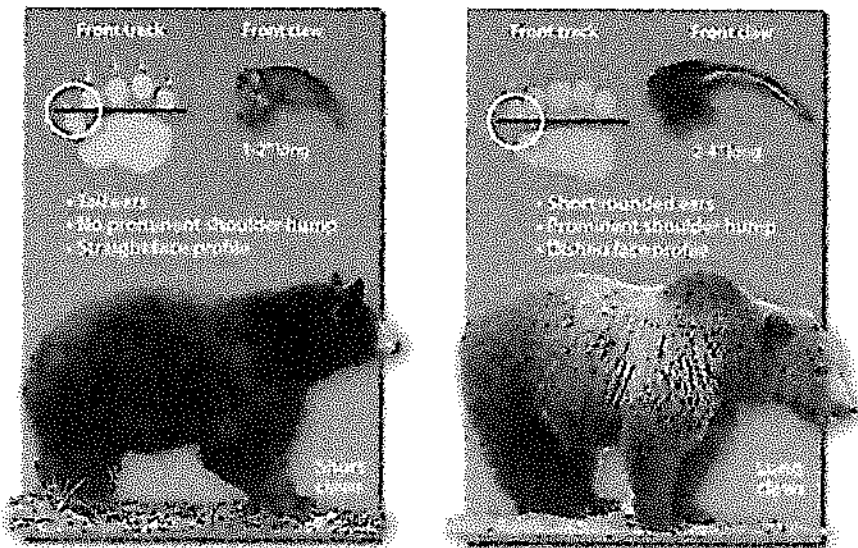
Finance Contacts

Phone Numbers:

- Overhead, Agency Crews/Engines – (406) 540-3451
- Comp/Claims – (406) 499-5609

Being Bear Aware

The Lolo National Forest is home to many black bears. Occasionally, grizzly bears pass through. Co-existing with both kinds of bears requires special attention to food storage. Because the huckleberry crop is reportedly poor this year, bears are likely to be focused on any patches they can find. To avoid conflicts with bears, avoid berry patches when possible. Also, Lolo NF has a bear storage order. See some specifics below.



General Precautions During the Day:

- Do not leave food or attractants unattended.
- Keep food and trash with you or in a bear-resistant storage container until the end of the day.

Precautions in Spike Camps:

- Select a campsite away from berry patches and animal trails.
- Place sleeping tents at least 100 yards from food storage and cooking areas.
- When possible store all food, odorous items and garbage by hanging at least 10 feet from the ground, 4 feet from top/side supports, or in bear-resistant container/hard-sided vehicle.
- Strain food particles from dishwater. Pack everything out and **never bury or burn garbage.**

Clips from the Lolo's Food Storage Order:

1. During daytime hours, all attractants, including human food and garbage shall be stored in a bear resistant manner when not being attended.
2. During nighttime hours, all attractants, including food and garbage shall be stored in a bear resistant manner unless it is in immediate control, being prepared for eating, being eaten, being transported, or being prepared for storage.

1. Incident/Project Name				2. Operational Period			
Cherry Peak Fire				Date/Time 08/23/2026		0600-2100	
3. Ambulance Services							
Ambulance	Complete Address			Phone & EMS Frequency		Advanced Life Support (ALS) Yes No	
Plains Community Ambulance	10 Kruger Rd. Plains, MT 59859			911/ MIDC			NO
Thompson Falls Ambulance	Thompson Falls, MT 59873			911/ MIDC			NO
4. Air Ambulance Services							
Name		Phone		Type of Aircraft & Capability			
Life Flight Network - Missoula, MT		911 or thru MIDC		Paramedics/Flight Nurse			
Two Bear Air - Kalispell, MT		Flathead (406)-758-5610		Hoist capable, SAR, Paramedics, Flight nurses			
5. Hospitals							
Name Complete Address		Coordinate Standard		Travel Time Air Grd		Helipad Yes No	
Clark Fork Valley Hospital 10 Kruger Road Plains, MT 59859		Lat: 47 28.145	Min	Min	406-826-4875 406-826-4800 Helipad	☒	☐
		Long: -114 53.333					
		VHF: 155.280 Tone Tx 156.7	5	15			
St. Patrick's Hospital 500 West Broadway Missoula, MT		Lat: 46 52.528	Min	Hr	406-329-2620 406-543-7271 Helipad	☒	☐
		Long: -113 59.984					
		VHF: 155.280 Tone Tx 156.7	30	1.3			
Harborview 333 8th Ave Seattle, Washington		Lat: 47 36.169	Hr	Hr	206-744-3074 ER	☒	☐
		Long: -122 19.481					
		VHF:	4	7			
Plains Family Medical 10 Kruger Rd Plains MT 59859		Lat: 47 28.145	Min	Min	406-826-4810	☒	☐
		Long: -114 53.333					
		VHF: 155.280 Tone Tx 156.7	5	15			
6. Branch / Division / Group Area Location Capability							
DIV ALPHA		EMS Responders & Capability		Call 911. Call Missoula Dispatch Center: 406-829-7070.			
		Medical Emergency Channel		WEST REPEAT: EDDY MTN			
DIV ZULU		EMS Responders & Capability		Call 911. Call Missoula Dispatch Center: 406-829-7070.			
		Medical Emergency Channel		WEST REPEAT: EDDY MTN			
7. Name & Location		Remote Camp Location(s)					
8. Prepared By (Medical Unit Leader)		9. Date/Time		10. Reviewed By (Safety Officer)		11. Date/Time	
Justin Randall, SOFC		08/22/2026		Justin Randall, SOFC		08/22/2026	

Medical Incident Report – 8 Line

FOR A NON-EMERGENCY INCIDENT, WORK THROUGH CHAIN OF COMMAND TO REPORT AND TRANSPORT INJURED PERSONNEL AS NECESSARY.

FOR A MEDICAL EMERGENCY: IDENTIFY ON SCENE INCIDENT COMMANDER BY NAME AND POSITION AND ANNOUNCE **"MEDICAL EMERGENCY"** TO INITIATE RESPONSE FROM IMT COMMUNICATIONS/DISPATCH.

Use the following items to communicate situation to communications/dispatch.

1. CONTACT COMMUNICATIONS / DISPATCH (Verify correct frequency prior to starting report)

Ex: "Communications, Div. Alpha. Stand-by for Emergency Traffic."

2. INCIDENT STATUS: Provide incident summary (including number of patients) and command structure.

Ex: "Communications, I have a Red priority patient, unconscious, struck by a falling tree. Requesting air ambulance to Forest Road 1 at (Lat./Long.) This will be the Trout Meadow Medical, IC is TFLD Jones. EMT Smith is providing medical care."

Severity of Emergency / Transport Priority	☐ RED / PRIORITY 1 Life or limb threatening injury or illness. Evacuation need is IMMEDIATE <i>Ex: Unconscious, difficulty breathing, bleeding severely, 2° – 3° burns more than 4 palm sizes, heat stroke, disoriented.</i> ☐ YELLOW / PRIORITY 2 Serious Injury or illness. Evacuation may be DELAYED if necessary. <i>Ex: Significant trauma, unable to walk, 2° – 3° burns not more than 1-3 palm sizes.</i> ☐ GREEN / PRIORITY 3 Minor Injury or illness. Non-Emergency transport <i>Ex: Sprains, strains, minor heat-related illness.</i>
Nature of Injury or Illness & Mechanism of Injury	Brief Summary of Injury or Illness (Ex: Unconscious, Struck by Falling Tree)
Transport Request	Air Ambulance / Short Haul/Hoist Ground Ambulance / Other
Patient Location	Descriptive Location & Lat. / Long. (WGS84)
Incident Name	Geographic Name + "Medical" (Ex: Trout Meadow Medical)
On-Scene Incident Commander	Name of on-scene IC of Incident within an Incident (Ex: TFLD Jones)
Patient Care	Name of Care Provider (Ex: EMT Smith)

3. INITIAL PATIENT ASSESSMENT: Complete this section for each patient as applicable (start with the most severe patient)

Patient Assessment:

See IRPG page 106

Treatment:

4. TRANSPORT PLAN:

Evacuation Location (if different): (Descriptive Location (drop point, intersection, etc.) or Lat. / Long.) Patient's ETA to Evacuation Location:

Helispot / Extraction Site Size and Hazards:

5. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES / EQUIPMENT NEEDS:

Example: Paramedic/EMT, Crews, Immobilization Devices, AED, Oxygen, Trauma Bag, IV/Fluid(s), Splints, Rope rescue, Wheeled litter, HAZMAT, Extrication

6. COMMUNICATIONS: Identify State Air/Ground EMS Frequencies and Hospital Contacts as applicable

Function	Channel Name/Number	Receive (RX)	Tone/NAC *	Transmit (TX)	Tone/NAC *
COMMAND					
AIR-TO-GRND					
TACTICAL					

7. CONTINGENCY: Considerations: If primary options fail, what actions can be implemented in conjunction with primary evacuation method? Be thinking ahead.

8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Updates/Changes, etc.

REMEMBER: Confirm ETA's of resources ordered. Act according to your level of training. Be Alert. Keep Calm. Think Clearly. Act Decisively.