



FACT SHEET

Bezhik (Beige-ik) Fire

This will be the final Bezhik Fire Fact Sheet

Date: Monday, May 24, 2020 10:00am

Incident Name: Bezhik Fire

Fire Information: 218-349-2900 or online at inciweb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/> or the Superior National Forest website: www.fs.usda.gov/superior

Size: 782 acres

Containment: 100%

Location: Northeastern Minnesota, St. Louis County, Township 64 North, Range 14 West, Sections 5 & 8 and Township 65 North, Range 14 West, Sections 32 & 33.

Description: Late in the day on May 17th, a wildfire was detected northwest of Bezhik Lake in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) on the LaCroix Ranger District of the Superior National Forest. Bezhik Lake is located west of Big Moose Lake, north of Cummings Lake, and approximately 16 miles north of Tower, MN. The fire is believed to be started by a lightning strike. During the afternoon of May 18 during hot, dry, and windy conditions the fire made a two-mile run to the north and impacted private property. Numerous air water drops made by 4 FireBoss and 2 Large Air Tanker airplanes held the fire up just south of the Moose Loop Road.

Current Status: Yesterday, fire crews continued to mop up along the fire edge working 100 to 150 feet towards the interior of the fire. Pockets of heat and smoldering logs were extinguished as part of the effort to secure the perimeter and prevent any heat or fire from moving. There has been minimal fire activity along the edge of the fire for the past several days. Extensive suppression work has been completed on the north side of the fire in and around the private property. The south side of the fire has been worked by fire crews using minimum impact techniques to seek out and cool off hot spots within the BWCAW.

Planned Actions: An Incident Commander and fire crew are still assigned to patrol and monitor the fire area for the West Zone Fire organization. While the perimeter of the fire has been worked by firefighters, interior pockets of fuel might still burn if conditions dry out in the upcoming days. While smoke has not been very visible recently, interior burning could cause some smoke to be visible. The fire is currently 100% contained, which means that the perimeter has been secured but the fire has not been called controlled or out yet. The status of the fire will be reassessed on a regular basis.

Resources: The Superior National Forest continues to have additional crews and engines on site for the busy spring prescribed fire and wildfire season. Currently the Lolo Hotshot Crew, a Cherokee Hotshot Module, and Wildland Engines from several other forests are temporarily stationed on the West Zone districts to provide support.

Closures: There are currently no Forest Closures in place.

Forest Service
Superior National Forest

