

NEWS RELEASE

Umatilla National Forest



541-278-3722 (Joani Bosworth, Public Affairs, Umatilla N.F.)

UPDATE

Provided by the Oregon/California Incident Command Team Managing the Trout Meadows Fire

Fire Information: 541-427-3079

Thunderstorms and lightning rumbled through eastern Oregon Sunday causing six new small fires near the Trout Meadows Fire burning in the North Fork John Day Wilderness. Firefighters efficiently attacked the new starts which were quickly lined and contained to less than one acre.

More thunderstorms are expected today and a "red flag warning" is in effect because of the combination of dry fuels, predicted winds and possible lightning.

Four hundred ninety six personnel are committed to the Trout Meadows Fire, which is 10 percent contained and has burned more than 2,160 acres. Six cabins previously threatened by the fire are now protected by crews staffing fire hose lines. Additional clearance of vegetation or fuels around the cabins is ongoing. No evacuations are in effect and there have been no structures damaged as a result of the Trout Meadows Fire. The northern part of the fire is fairly secure as crews will continue to check the eastern spread of the fire. Fire crews will begin to construct or plan for containment lines in the southern part of the fire, burning further into the Wilderness. This area is very remote and suppression tactics will be employed that minimize the impacts of human-caused activities.

A section of Forest Service Road #52 between Granite and Ukiah is closed. Numerous trails within the Wilderness are closed. For specific road, trail and area closures the public is advised to check with the local U. S. Forest Service Office.