

OTTER CREEK FIRE

Umatilla National Forest FIRE UPDATE

Rob Batten, Incident Commander
Blue Mountain Fire Interagency Team
IMT-II

August 18, 2007, 8:00 a.m.

**Additional information available at www.inciweb.org
Or call 541- (recorded message available 24hr/day)**

For Immediate Release

The Otter Creek Fire is located near Otter Creek in the Umatilla National Forest in Oregon and is burning in fairly steep, remote country. This fire has a high potential to grow and firefighters are working against the difficulty of the terrain and the abundance of fuels. There are no structures threatened at this time and the main concern is to protect vital fish habitat and popular hunting areas.

The lightning storm that passed through the Ukiah, OR area Wednesday afternoon (August 15) ignited 29 wildfires in the surrounding area. These fires, burning on Umatilla National Forest and Oregon Department of Forestry protected lands, have prompted Forest officials to close several forest roads for public and firefighter safety.

The weather forecast calls for cooler temperatures with higher relative humidity over the weekend. Areas within the fire perimeter are burning out and the potential for rapid spread remains high.

The Blue Mountain Interagency Incident Management Team assumed management of the fire and will direct all assembled resources to meet the challenges posed by the Otter Creek Fire, provide for firefighter and public safety, protect fisheries and other natural resources, and minimize costs.

The public is asked to watch out for fire equipment on Road 46.

Location: 14 SE of Ukiah, OR Start Date: 08/15/07
Cause: Lightning Approx. Size: 2093 acres
Assigned Resources: 1- Type 2 Incident Management Team
Containment: 0%
Total Personnel: 50 Agencies Represented: USFS, and State

Due to extremely fire conditions, Public Use restrictions remain in effect and a complete campfire ban has been imposed on the following State and federal lands in NE Oregon and SE Washington: Umatilla NF, Malheur NF, Wallowa-Whitman, BLM lands in Burns BLM District and Oregon State Parks in the NE Oregon ODF Protection area.

The following Forest Roads are closed:

- All Forest Roads within the Umatilla National Forest, North Fork John Day Ranger District north of Oregon State Highway 244. (Pearson Creek Area)
- Forest Road 54 from its intersection with Oregon State Highway 244 south to its terminus.
- Forest Road 55 from its junction with Forest Road 10 to its junction with the Forest Road 52.
- Forest Road 52 from its junction with Forest Road 51 to its junction with Forest Road 55.
- Forest Road 5505.
- Forest Road 5506.
- Forest Road 5507.
- Forest Road 5510.
- Forest Road 5309 from its junction with Forest Road 5309330 to its terminus

In addition, a section of State Highway 244 from milepost 3 to milepost 15 is closed. Please check with Oregon Department of Transportation for additional closure information.

The following Forest System Trails (FST) remain **CLOSED** until further notice:

FST 3021 (Martin Creek Trail) from its junction with FST 3029, easterly to its terminus
FST 3029 (Packsaddle Springs Trail) from its junction with FST 3021 to Moon Meadows
FST 3031 (Wagner Gulch Trail)
FST 3022 (North Fork John Day River Trail) from its junction with FST 3011, easterly to its terminus at the North Fork John Day Campground.

An area closure will remain in effect for a smaller area around the fire. For a map of the area and trail closures please visit the Umatilla National Forest web site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/> or the inciweb web site at: <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/907/> for the latest closures, information, maps and photos.