



## UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST/OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

### **Ukiah Complex Fire Update**

Thursday, August 23, 2007

Contact: Kent Nelson, telephone: (541) 427-3079  
Incident Command Post located at the Sports Park in Ukiah, OR

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The Ukiah Complex Fire continues to challenge crews with smoldering ground fuels and is estimated as 96% contained. Yesterday, crews focused mop up efforts on the Owen Butte Fire and the fire near Hidaway Springs. Hot areas in the north section of the Owen Butte Fire kept contracted crews and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) crews busy. Most of the ODF and contracted engine crews continued work near Hidaway Springs. In an effort to reduce costs, crews that are close to completing their two weeks are being released and not replaced.

The plan for Thursday is to have an IR specialist with an infrared heat sensing device scan the north and west perimeter of the Owen Butte Fire. The results of the IR scan will be marked with a GPS (global positioning system) and flagged so mop-up crews can locate and extinguish them. Back at the fire camp, a GIS (global information system) mapping specialist will also plot the hot spots on a map to help members of the Maine Incident Management Team plan for Friday's mop up operations. This thorough method of mop up will reduce the likelihood of a reburn as the weather continues to get hotter, and drier towards the weekend.

On Wednesday, the Umatilla National Forest eased area closures around the Trout Meadows Fire and reduced the number of road closures near the Ukiah Complex Fire and The Otter Fire, which is 45% contained. In addition, the Umatilla National Forest dropped the Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) to a Level II. This will allow campfires in fire pits at designated campgrounds. A map and list of forest road closures has been posted on the Umatilla National Forest web site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma> . Other information can be found at <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/943/> and the Oregon Department of Transportation's website: <http://www.tripcheck.com>.