



# CANYON COMPLEX FIRE UPDATE

**Location:** Plumas National Forest      **Start Date:** June 22, 2008      **Update:** July 5, 2008 PM  
**California Incident Management Team # 3 (Incident Commander – Jeanne Pincha-Tulley)**  
**Acres:** 18,863      **Resources:** 1,239 personnel      **Containment:** 68%

**Current Situation:** Today, good progress continued on mopping up many fires and closing the gap on other fires on the Canyon Complex. The Cold Fire in eastern Plumas County, recently the highest priority in this Complex, has been heavily mopped up for the past few days and is getting very close to being officially “contained”. Tactics to “contain” a fire require all hotspots within approximately 300-feet of a fireline to be extinguished and ideally much of a fire’s interior heat as well. It is only at this point where fire managers feel comfortable with full “containment”. The perimeter for mop-up on the Cold Fire is approximately 23 miles.

The Canyon and Butte Lightning Complex Fire Teams are working closely on the high priority, 118-acre Belden Fire. The Belden Fire continues to burn slowly downhill toward Belden and Highway 70. Line preparation along the 26N26 road above Gansner Bar, using 6 dozers, continued today for a planned burnout operation. The goal is to reduce fuels and quickly re-open Highway 70. The strategy involves a slow burnout, starting near the Gansner Bar above Highway 70 and then extending west along Highway 70 toward the Pit Fire. This effort may take several days. Two hotshot crews and two other experienced crews arrived today to add support to the planned burnout operation. Structure protection engines continue to be in place to protect the community of Belden. A precautionary evacuation remains in place for the west end of Belden in the vicinity of Indian Creek RV Park and the immediate area surrounding Maggie’s Mapleleaf. A Sheriff’s advisement is in place for the Belden community south of Highway 70. The Belden Fire is burning at low intensity near Belden, north of Highway 70.

Helicopters dropped thousands of gallons of water today on the Frey, South and Little Fires. Crews also worked to contain a spot fire on the South Fire. A successful start to a lengthy burnout on the South Fire was completed early this morning at about 2AM along several miles of existing roads. Cleaning fuel that can feed a wildfire under controlled conditions is the objective of this operation. The goal is to bring the South Fire to the Frey Fire. These fires will now be called the South-Frey Fire. Twenty-two fires are now contained on the Canyon Complex, with eight uncontained.

Highway 70 is closed to the public, but open to residents from the junction of Highways 89/70 (Greenville Y) to the Caribou Road (east of Belden). This change was made in order to position fire equipment and hose lines, and does not reflect any additional threat to communities in the canyon. No through traffic is permitted from the Greenville Y to Big Bend road. For information on State road closures, call CalTrans information: 1-800-427-7623. Road conditions are subject to change at any time.

**Closures:** Closure orders are issued in areas of active fire to protect Forest visitors. The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) is now closed from the Plumas National Forest northern boundary to the LaPorte -Quincy Hwy (to the NE of Little Grass Valley Reservoir). A Forest Order has also closed road 22N94 from its intersection with Forest Road 22N27 then continuing northeast to its intersection again with Forest Road 22N27 (west of Little Grass Valley Reservoir). An area closure covers public land, including trails, generally bounded by: (1) the North and Middle Forks of the Feather River toward the Pacific Crest Trail, the Bucks Lake Wilderness; and (2) areas surrounding the Cold Fire in eastern Plumas County. Specific campgrounds closures include: Milsap Bar, Little North Fork, Rogers Cow Camp, Feather Falls, and Hartman Bar. Please refer to maps and descriptions posted on the Forest website <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas/>.

**Weather:** Today, the smoke that drifted into Quincy and portions of the Plumas National Forest likely came from yesterday’s burnout operations. This situation, caused by a stable atmosphere, could continue for another few days, as crews work hard to complete as much solid fireline as possible before the arrival of forecasted hot temperatures. For an update of local air quality conditions, visit [www.countyofplumas.com](http://www.countyofplumas.com) , for Butte County: [www.bcaqmd.org](http://www.bcaqmd.org).

**Events:** Private businesses and resorts in forest communities, including facilities around Bucks Lake, remain open. The Sierra Music Festival and Graeagle fireworks are taking place as scheduled. Contact event organizers for current information.

**Fire information:** internet [www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas) ; phone (530) 283-7882, 7883, or 7884.  
**Beginning Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, the Fire Information Center hours will be 7am to 7pm.**  
**Fire protection information:** <http://plumasfiresafe.org>; Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) Information: [www.pcta.org](http://www.pcta.org)

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