

Rich Fire and Canyon Complex

Fire Information Update

www.inciweb.org www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas/

Contact: Public Information Office (530) 283-7882 or 7883

Monday, August 11, 2008 – 8 am PDT Update

Fire	Acres	% Contained	Cost	Total Personnel
Rich	6,112	100%	\$ 11,127,960	512
Canyon	37,831	97% *	\$ 45,290,862	75

Expected containment date for the Canyon Complex is August 14, 2008.

News & Events for the Rich Fire and Canyon Complex:

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- Fire equipment continues to operate along highway 70. Flaggers are in place in the Rich bar vicinity. Motorists are urged to please use caution in this area.
- Interior burning continues to put up occasional smoke plumes from both the Rich Fire and the Canyon Complex. Several water drops were made today to cool some hot spots within the fire line.
- A BAER team will start work on the Rich Fire today.
- As work is completed appropriate resources are being released.
- Caribou Road (Forest Service road 27N26) remains closed from the intersection of Highway 70 to Butt Lake.

RICH FIRE STATUS: The 6,112 acre Rich Fire is 100% contained.

A Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) team starts work today. Hotspot mop-up and rehabilitation work on fire lines and dozer lines continues. Some water drops by helicopter were made yesterday and a crew followed up to complete the mop up of these hot areas. Roads in the area are being rehabbed.

CANYON COMPLEX STATUS: The potential for high fire behavior still exists within the Canyon Complex with re-burn potential low to moderate. Moderate fire behavior continues to be observed in isolated areas of interior unburned pockets with moderate to high reburn potential; the expectation is to see occasional columns of smoke. Some water drops by helicopter were made yesterday and a crew followed up to complete the mop up of these hot areas. Overall, fire behavior is currently low, with the fire backing downhill, smoldering and creeping. Crews will continue with rehabilitation, mop up. Rehab is 95% completed on the North Branch and 85% complete on the South Branch. Due to safety concerns and efficiency a spike camp was established at Brush Creek and another is being established at Fall River.

Mandatory & Voluntary Evacuations (Rich Fire): Mandatory evacuations for the Feather River Canyon area of Rush Creek Road (Brush Creek, Virgilia/Twelve Mile Bar) are lifted, with restrictions. Only residents with proper identification are allowed access. All other voluntary and precautionary evacuation orders have been lifted with no restrictions, including Hwy 70 from Rock Creek Dam to Rich Bar, Hwy 70 from Virgilia to Woody's Hot Springs, Seneca and the South portion of Butt Lake.

- **Hwy 70 and Caribou Road Status and Forest Closures:** Highway 70 been has re-opened to public access. The Caribou Road (FS road 27N26) is closed. Fire equipment continues to operate in this area and motorist are urged to use caution in this vicinity. Three emergency closure areas on the Plumas National Forest were signed into effect on July 31 by Forest Supervisor Alice Carlton, also for public safety purposes. The Pacific Crest Trail and Bucks Lake Trail are impacted by this closure order. Go to www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas/ for more information Order No. 08-08 (Rich Fire) or forest closure Order No. 07-08 (Canyon Complex). The closures remain in effect at this time.

FIRE FACTS:

RICH Fire : Started: July 29, 2008; Cause: Under investigation; Location: 20 miles West of Quincy, CA; Resources: 9 hand crews, 1 helicopters, 24 engines, 2 dozers, 16 water tenders, 512 total personnel.

CANYON COMPLEX: Started: June 21, 2008; Cause: Lightning; Location: Feather River, Mount Hough and Beckwourth Ranger Districts; Resources: 2 helicopter, 1 engine, 3 dozers, 8 water tenders, 75 total personnel.

SAFETY CONCERNS: Hazardous driving conditions, numerous historic mining sites, firefighter fatigue and steep, rocky terrain with numerous standing dead trees (snags) and rolling material, long travel times to fire, unburned interior fuels.

RESOURCE CONCERNS: Protection of wilderness values, water quality in wild and scenic rivers, sensitive species habitat and scenic/road less areas by utilizing minimum disturbance practices.

VALUES AT RISK: Canyon Complex: Red-legged frog habitat, falcon/eagle nest sites, high value timber and archaeological sites.

WEATHER: Mostly Sunny. Maximum temperatures 73-91F. Humidity's: 12-22%. Ridge top winds Southwest 3-9 gust 20. Upslope/upvalley Southwest 3-9. For Tuesday, mostly sunny and slightly cooler and moister. Extended forecast Wednesday through Friday includes the chance that monsoonal moisture could bring a threat of thunderstorms Thursday through the weekend.

FIRE BEHAVIOR: Minimal fire activity at this time.

For Air Quality and Defensible Space Info: Plumas County Air Quality Info:
http://www.countyofplumas.com/air_quality_08_01_08.pdf; Plumas County Fire Safe Council:
<http://plumasfiresafe.org/>.

COOPERATING AGENCIES & PARTNERS: Plumas County Sheriff, Butte County Sheriff, Cal Fire, California Highway Patrol, Cal Trans Plumas and other resources.