

NEWS RELEASE

Umatilla National Forest



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

UPDATE

Provided by the Oregon/California Incident Command Team
Trout Meadows Fire Update: Sunday, August 12, 2007 8:00 AM

Fire Information: 541-427-3079

Incident Command Post located at the Sports Park in Ukiah, OR

Some very challenging burn-out operations were safely conducted yesterday along the southern part of the fire line within the North Fork John Day Wilderness. By 1:00 p.m. yesterday, the fire lines were connected and secure enough to begin the next phase of securing the fire. The winds were favorable for an efficient and fairly complete burn-out in many places to strengthen parts of the southern containment fire line. This was a very complex assignment that will be continued today to complete burn-out operations for the 3,970 acre Trout Meadows Fire, located 30 miles southeast of Ukiah, Oregon.

Fire crews discovered multiple spot fires across the line and quickly contained them with help from helicopters. Late afternoon winds shifted somewhat and challenged fire crews as they closely monitored for any fire that crossed the line. Most of the burn-out added approximately 500 to 700 feet of black (or burnt vegetation) north of the fire line and gave fire managers comfort knowing that many of the fine fuels have been consumed and any return fire should not travel very fast on the ground and challenge the fire line. Some aerial fuels or the crowns of burnt trees still could reignite and crews will monitor these areas in the next few days, and take appropriate actions.

Strategically placed portable water tanks will be positioned along the southern fire lines and refilled by helicopters for the fire crews to use in their mop-up work. Fire hoses and portable pumps will be installed to service the entire southern boundary of the fire.

Last night another infra-red flight was taken and hot areas discovered from the flight will be monitored today by fire crews and by aerial observation.

The Trout Meadows Fire is 60 percent contained and now has 729 people assigned to fight this fire. There are also four helicopters, 14 fire engines, and 9 water tankers on the fire. Structure protection resources remain in place for the private cabins near the fire.

One minor injury was reported yesterday. A fire fighter fell after twisting his knee and ankle. Portions of Forest Service Roads 51 and 52 remain closed to the public due to firefighting traffic and heavy smoke in the area. Numerous road, trail and an area closures are also in effect near the fire and the public is advised to 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 information, maps and photos.