

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: Wednesday, August 15, 2007 8:00 AM

Fire Information: 541-427-3079

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

Fire crews continued with their mop-up and rehabilitation efforts yesterday. Each day the number of smokes is greatly reduced, especially near containment lines where fire crews have been hard at work securing and extinguishing all burning material more than 300' from the fire line. No spot fires were reported yesterday for the second day in a row, which makes fire managers more confident with their containment strategy.

The weather predictions for the next few days call for a warming and drying trend. With no moisture expected in the near future, this fire area will have to be monitored very closely by air and by firefighters on the ground.

A new incident management team from the state of Maine is arriving today and will be briefed in Ukiah, OR at the North Fork John Day Ranger Station. They will shadow the existing ORCA Incident Management Team, and learn what has been done for the past two weeks and what else still needs to be accomplished. The new incident commander will be Mike Ricci and he brings with him a "short team" of overhead personnel to assist him in the further management of the Trout Meadows Fire.

The 3, 890 acre Trout Meadows Fire, located 30 miles southeast of Ukiah, Oregon, is now 90 % contained. There are now 587 people, two helicopters, 12 fire engines, and seven water tenders assigned to this fire. The expected containment date is tomorrow, Thursday, August 16, 2007.

No injuries were reported yesterday and overall the safety record for this fire is outstanding considering the complexity of suppression activities and the steepness and accessibility issues within the Wilderness.

All Forest Service roads within and near the fire area will be open at noon today.

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.