



UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST/OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Ukiah Complex Fire Update

Sunday, August 19, 2007

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

Clouds started to cover the fire area late yesterday afternoon as a weather front moved through northeastern Oregon. The predicted winds did not cause much of a problem as fire crews continued to mop up and take advantage of the cooler weather on the 4,524 acre Ukiah Complex. This morning crews were greeted with early morning rain that will greatly help in their containment efforts. The acreage is considerably less than yesterday because the 2,289 acre Otter Fire is now being managed by the Blue Mountain Interagency Management Team led by Rob Batten and is no longer included in the acreage figures for the Ukiah Complex. Also, better mapping techniques have reduced the acreage estimates from yesterday.

The status of the major fires that the fire crews were taking action on is as follows:

Owens Butte – crews conducted additional burn-out operations of unburned fuel within the fire line.

Hidaway – the east perimeter of the fire contains many hot spots and crews will focus on these areas today.

Sugarbowl – aggressive mop-up for the past few days has greatly reduced the amount of smoking material within the fire line. Crews will continue to use fire hoses and water to mop-up the remaining vegetation that is burning.

Camas – Very few smokes remain and crews will monitor and patrol this fire today.

Incident 244 (2 miles north of Hidaway Springs) and **Incident 246** (north of Owens Butte) – crews will be mopping up and patrolling these fire today.

No damage to any structure or injury to the public or fire fighters has been reported. State Highway 244, east of Ukiah (mile post 3 to 15) is currently open with pilot car escorts. Many Forest Service roads remain closed until conditions become safe for public travel. Travelers should check with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for an updated highway status before using State Highway 244. The Umatilla National Forest has opened Forest Road 52 and the North Fork John Day Campground.

The fires on the Ukiah Complex are now 40 percent contained as nine hundred and four people continue to work on the Ukiah Complex. Thirty-three crews, four helicopters, thirty-eight engines and nine dozers are working to mop-up and further secure the six larger fires. The estimated containment date for the Ukiah Complex is August 22.

Forest visitors are reminded that all fires are prohibited in the forest. Various trails, campgrounds and backcountry roads are closed as the result of the fires and may remain closed when bow hunting season opens August 25.

These fires are burning on Umatilla National Forest and private lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry.

For more fire and road information, please visit the Umatilla National Forest web site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma>, or, <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/943/>, or the Oregon Department of Transportation at: <http://www.tripcheck.com>.