



## UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST/OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

# Ukiah Complex Fire Update

Monday, August 20, 2007

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

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Yesterday morning from 6:00 a. m. to around noon, a series of rain events dropped from ¼” to ¾” of rain on the Ukiah Complex. The average in Ukiah was .45” of rain which was enough to wet the fine fuels such as the grasses and light litter layer of dead vegetation. Under the tree canopy, where the ground was somewhat protected from the rain, only trace amounts of moisture could be found. Crews took advantage of the cooler weather and dampened soil to extinguish all burning materials within the fire lines. There was a heavy cloud cover all day over the fire with light winds. Today, the incident meteorologist is predicting possible light rains later in the afternoon, with high clouds over the Ukiah area. The forecast calls for warmer and dryer conditions which should evaporate most of the recent moisture during the next few days.

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

**Owens Butte** – The light rains helped extinguish light burning materials such as grass and dead needles. Monitoring for smokes will continue.

**Hidaway** – The east perimeter of the fire contains some hot spots and crews will concentrate on these areas today.

**Sugarbowl** – Very few smokes are present. Crews will continue to use fire hoses and water to mop-up the remaining vegetation that is burning.

**Camas** – No visible 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 looking for smokes and patrolling these fires 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 4,524 acre Ukiah Complex are now 80 percent contained as six hundred and fifty-seven people continue to work on the Ukiah Complex. Twenty, 20-persons hand crews, one helicopter, thirty-nine engines and three dozers are working to further secure and mop-up 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>.