

OTTER CREEK FIRE

Umatilla National Forest

FIRE UPDATE

Rob Batten, Incident Commander
Blue Mountain Fire Interagency Team
IMT-II

August 24, 2007, 8:00 a.m.

Additional information available at www.inciweb.org

Or call 541- 421-3073

For Immediate Release

Mop-up operations and rehabilitation efforts are progressing exceptionally well. With warmer temperatures and increased winds, fuels are drying out and more hot spots are showing up. So, we spend additional time gridding and making sure all hot spots are extinguished, both inside and outside containment lines. Approximately 150,000 feet of hose has been laid along the perimeter in various locations. Piles of debris and dirt, called "Berms," will be pulled down, surfaces re-contoured, and water bars installed on the dozer line on the west perimeter of the fire. This will be done following Forest guidelines and utilizing Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics as needed.

Our number one priority is public and firefighter safety. Falling trees in the burned area pose the greatest limiting factor to public access. Another safety concern for the firefighters and the public is the increased traffic on Hwy 395 between Meadow Brook Summit and junction of Hwy 395 and Forest Road 55 (Texas Bar Road). With the first day of archery season approaching, travelers on these roads are urged to be extra cautious, particularly in the morning and evening hours when fire traffic is leaving the fire and returning to the Incident Command Post at Meadow Brook. Area and road closures in the immediate area of the Otter Creek Fire have been modified. Check the Umatilla N.F. Website, listed below, for details.

Thermal low pressure system will develop over the region causing increased temperatures, winds and lower relative humidity.

The Blue Mountain Interagency Incident Management Team will direct all assembled resources to meet the challenges posed by the Otter Creek Fire, provide for firefighter and public safety, protect fisheries and other natural resources, and minimize costs.

Location: 10 miles east of Ukiah, OR

Start Date: 08/15/07

Cause: Lightning

Approx. Size: 3,032 acres

Assigned Resources: 17-Type 2 crews, 1-Type 2, 1-Type 3 Helicopter,
16-Engines, 1-Dozers, 10-Water tenders, 2-Camp Crews, 118-Overhead

Containment: 55%

Total Personnel: 666

Agencies Represented: USFS, Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Oregon Dept. of Transportation, Grant County and Oregon Dept of Corrections

Public Use Restrictions remain in effect including the ban on firewood cutting. The Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) was lowered to IFPL 2 on the Umatilla National Forest.

For specific road and area closure information 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>.