

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: Friday, August 10, 2007

Fire Information: 541-427-3079

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

The fire line is close to being connected at the southern end of the 3,570 acre Trout Meadows Fire, located 30 miles southeast of Ukiah, Oregon. Fire crews are constructing fire line in some very remote areas and must walk in great distances from the trailhead into the North Fork John Day Wilderness. To minimize the risk to the firefighters and to maximize their time along the perimeter of the fire, crews have been camping at Moon Meadows, located about one mile from the southwest corner of the fire. Helicopter support is critical in this remote area because of the numerous spot fires that have been discovered in the past few days and a lower predicted relative humidity that will increase the chance of additional ignitions. Helicopters can be quickly called upon to drop water and cool down the spot fires so that crews can then safely construct line around the fire and begin extinguishing all burning material near the line.

The fire is now 35 percent contained as 631 fire fighters, five helicopters, 14 fire engines, 9 water tankers and 1 dozer are aggressively suppressing this lightning-caused wildland fire. Crews are continuing to use minimum impact suppression tactics within the Wilderness as they reach their goal of full containment, expected on August 15.

Hand crews working at night will no longer be utilized because most of the work needed is far into the Wilderness and would not be safe for the crews if someone was injured. An infra-red flight was flown over the fire last night, which recorded the location of any hot spot. These locations will be checked today to make sure that all fire remains within the containment lines or within an acceptable area at the southern end of the fire.

Temperatures are expected to be slightly cooler today, but the area remains extremely dry. Smoke will continue to be heavy at times, especially along the southern part of the fire and communities north and east of the fire can expect times of heavy smoke depending on wind direction. Structure protection resources remain in place for the private cabins near the fire.

To date there have been no injuries reported as a result of the firefighting efforts. 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/> for the latest information.