



NEWS RELEASE

Lolo National Forest

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United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Lolo National Forest
Building 24, Fort Missoula
Missoula, Montana 59804

For Immediate Release

Date: April 22, 2009

1830 update

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Retardant Dropped on O'Brien Creek Fire

Missoula, MT. – Three helicopters and one air tanker continue to suppress the O'Brien Creek Fire this evening. The first retardant drop was at approximately 5:30 p.m. Fire activity was active through the afternoon and the fire has now grown to ten acres. Fire crews are focusing their efforts on the west and east flanks and working to keep the fire from reaching Haggerty Gulch, where private homes are located. No structures are currently threatened.

Resources on the fire include an excavator, one air tanker, three helicopters, 21 smokejumpers, and an additional 30 firefighters from state, local and other federal jurisdictions.

The wildfire started on private land near O'Brien Creek earlier today about two miles northwest of Maclay Flat.

The fire is not associated with the prescribed fire burned yesterday by the Lolo National Forest at Blue Mountain. No prescribed burning was conducted today due to windy conditions. The Blue Mountain prescribed fire from yesterday is not active but is currently staffed by Lolo NF firefighters who are monitoring the fire perimeter.

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