



# 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 23, 2009

0900 update

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## O'Brien Creek Fire Held Overnight

Missoula, MT. – Firefighters and suppression aircraft kept the O'Brien Creek Fire from growing overnight and firefighters are continuing to improve fireline established on the west and eastern perimeter of the fire yesterday afternoon and evening.

Approximately 21 firefighters are currently on the fireline and two crews are expected to arrive later today to relieve them. Aircraft resources remain on standby today to assist with suppression if needed.

Late yesterday three helicopters and one air tanker made successive water and retardant drops on the fire and helped keep it from growing beyond ten acres. Much higher humidity and rain this morning are also helping keep fire activity low.

Fire activity was active yesterday with gusty winds pushing the fire to the northeast. Fire crews focused their efforts on the west and east flanks to keep the fire from reaching Haggerty Gulch, where private homes are located. No structures are currently threatened.

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

The O'Brien Creek fire is not associated with the prescribed fire burned Tuesday by the Lolo National Forest at Blue Mountain.

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