

NEWS RELEASE

Oregon Department of Forestry and Umatilla National Forest



541-278-3722 (Joani Bosworth, Public Affairs, Umatilla N.F.)



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Wildfire Burning in the North Fork John Day Wilderness Road, Area and Trail Closures are Pending

Pendleton, OR: A wildfire burning approximately 25 miles southeast of Ukiah, Oregon has quickly grown to over 600 acres prompting the closure of Forest Road 52 (Ukiah-Granite Road). Additional road, trail and area closures are pending. The **Trout Meadows Fire** was reported Friday afternoon and is burning in the northeast corner of the North Fork John Day Wilderness on both Umatilla National Forest lands and Oregon Department of Forestry protected lands.

"Fuel conditions are extremely dry," said Brian Goff, Deputy Fire Management Officer for the Umatilla National Forest. "Everything, from grass to brush to tree crowns, is actively burning. This fire has shown high-energy fire behavior that is highly resistant to fire suppression actions," said Goff.

Though the cause of the fire has not yet been determined, Goff suspects it could be a hold-over fire from the July 26th lightning event. "Lightning detection maps have shown strikes in the general vicinity of this fire," said Goff.

Resources assigned to fight this fire include a single-engine air tanker, 2 heavy air tankers, air attack, helitack, four rappellers, smoke jumpers, five engines, one skidgen, one dozer, one water tender, 22 firefighters and overhead support. Additional crews and resources have been ordered.

The ORCA Incident Management Team (IMT), lead by Incident Commander (IC) Ken Paul, has been mobilized and will take over management of the Trout Meadows Fire. By assigning an Incident Management Team, local initial attack resources can be released back to their local units and made available to fight newly reported fires.

With continued hot and dry weather conditions in the forecast, it's a good time to remind everyone that public-use restrictions involving motorized use, campfires, smoking, and industrial use are in effect throughout the area. Burning permits are required for all burning on private lands.

To report a forest fire, please contact the Pendleton Interagency Communication Center at (541) 278-3732 or dial 911.

***PICC** is an interagency communication-dispatching center, supporting lands in NE Oregon and SE Washington protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry, Umatilla National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Tribal Lands, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and the National Park Service.

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