

**NEWS RELEASE
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Ironside Complex Fire Update

VALE, Oregon – Approximately 350 acres are actively burning on public and private lands on Ironside Mountain. Tactical operations are being conducted by the Blue Mountain Interagency Incident Team.

The fire, which began with lightning strikes on Friday, has continued to grow. Air tankers “painted” a retardant perimeter on Friday and Saturday, which has slowed the growth of the fire. Additional air resources are on order, as engine and hand crews build handline and hold the perimeter.

Five of the nation’s elite Hotshot crews are on scene. “That’s what’s allowing us to be effective in this steep, rugged terrain,” said Rob Batten, Incident Commander.

Three additional fires in the Westfall area that were included in the Ironside Complex were contained yesterday morning at an estimated 2,000 acres.

For additional information, contact Vale District BLM Public Information Officer Debbie Lyons at (541) 473-6218.

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