

Efforts Continue to Stop Advancement of Lake George Fire

by Richard Burton

The Lake George Fire advanced approximately 50 acres yesterday and continues to burn approximately 13 miles west of Sisters in the Mt. Washington Wilderness on the Deschutes National Forest. The fire was estimated to be only 5 percent contained as of 8 a.m. Saturday August 12.

Authorities credit slightly moderate fire weather and aggressive use of aerial retardant and ground-based firefighting for the relatively small growth in size yesterday.

According to a news release from the Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center, the fire remains entirely within the Mt. Washington Wilderness boundary. Its main source of fuel is bug-killed lodgepole pine and fir.

Today crews will begin to construct direct hand-lines and hose-lays around the fire. Outside the wilderness boundary, dozers will construct a contingency line to use as a burn-out if deemed necessary to halt the fire's spread to the east.

340 fire personnel are actively fighting this fire under the direction of Bob Anderson with Pacific Northwest Team-3, who took over management duties at 6 a.m. this morning.

Five type-I helicopters will be providing air support, and fixed-wing retardant aircraft are available as needed. Ten engines, six dozers, and six water tenders are participating in the fire fighting activities.

The weather forecast is for continued warm, dry conditions with temperatures expected to range from 79-81 degrees.

Dry Creek Trail Head is closed until further notice. In addition, the following closures of various campgrounds and trailheads remain in effect:

The Windy Point Overlook
Hortense Lake Trailhead
Dry Creek Trailhead
Dugout Lake Trailhead
Black Crater Trailhead
Millican Crater Trailhead
Scott Pass Trailhead
Whispering Pine Horse Campground
Sisters Cow Campground
Cold Springs Campground.

Agencies on this fire include the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, and the Oregon Department of Forestry. Crews continue to work on the 600 acre Rock Springs Fire which is located 5 miles NW of Clarno, Oregon. This lightning caused fire was 60 percent contained as of Friday. The 800 acre Three Horses fire, which is located 5 miles SE of Clarno, was 95 percent contained Friday with full containment expected today. Fire crews continue to mop up.

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