

# News Release

## Umatilla National Forest

2517 SW Hailey Avenue  
Pendleton, OR 97801

visit us at [www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/)

News Contact: Joani Bosworth (541) 278-3722

**August 5, 2009**

### **Umatilla National Forest Wildfire Update North Fork Complex at 957 Acres**

**Pendleton, OR:** Fourteen new fire incidents have been reported to the Pendleton Interagency Communication Center (\*PICC) as a result of last night's lightning activity. Forest managers expect to pick up more fire reports as the daytime temperatures rise. A red flag warning remains in effect for additional lightning through 11:00 p.m. today.

Initial attack firefighting resources have been successful in containing several of the fires. A reconnaissance observation flight is scheduled for today to scout for small undetected fires or fires that were reported but not located.

The North Fork Complex, under the management of the Blue Mountain Incident Management Team, is comprised of seven fires in or adjacent to the North Fork John Day Wilderness and total approximately 957 acres. The three largest fires within the complex include a 400-acre fire near Raspberry Creek, a 500-acre fire near Kelsay Butte, and a 50-acre fire near Big Creek. These fires, burning in steep terrain with poor access, are 5 percent contained at this time. Currently, there are 355 people assigned to the complex.

An area closure for the northwestern portion of the North Fork John Day Wilderness remains in effect, however Forest Road 52 has been reopened to public travel. Information and maps of the North Fork Complex area closure can be found at the Umatilla National Forest website at [www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/).

Public-use restrictions involving motorized use, campfires, smoking, internal combustion engine and industrial use are in effect throughout the area.

-USFS-

\***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.