

**Northwest Oregon Area Interagency
Incident Management Team
Carl West, Incident Commander**



**Spear Spring Fire Daily Update
August 11, 2007, 1730 hrs**

On Saturday, crews completed mopping in 600 feet from the line, back hauling of equipment, and made excellent progress installing water bars (small drainage ditches) to reduce the potential for erosion. Additional crews and equipment are being released this evening. A local fire team will take command of the fire at 0600 Sunday morning. The team (Incident Commander, Division Supervisor, one 20-person crew, three engines and a tender) will continue mop-up and patrol until fuel moisture increases and the fire threat diminishes.

When fire conditions are extreme, fire officials must prioritize available resources and focus their efforts on fires where threats to life, property, and resources are greatest. The Spear Spring fire started under record dry conditions following a very busy month of wildland fire suppression on the Burns Interagency Fire Zone. During the early phases of the fire, water and retardant drops by five SEATs (single engine air tankers), helicopters from Burns and John Day, and national heavy air tanker resources were key to the success of suppression efforts. Air drops helped reduce fire intensity and enabled ground personnel to employ direct suppression tactics and construct dozer and hand line along the fire perimeter.

The decision to order the NW Oregon IMT for the Spear Spring fire was made during a period of extreme fire danger, forecast dry lightning, and local resources that had been stretched thin following weeks of successive fire starts and large project fires. "The rapid deployment of local ground and air resources was key to getting a handle on this thing early and keeping it small," said Carl West, Incident Commander. "Over the last three days our team has been engaged in mobilizing resources, securing firelines, and releasing crews to other fires. It's fortunate that initial attack resources were available in the first 24-hours. This fire could have grown much larger and we would have been faced with a situation that required more crews and equipment for more time resulting in a significantly higher cost and increased resource damage," West added.

Fire at a Glance (8/11/07)

Size: 355 Acres

Location: 25 miles N of Burns OR along Forest Road 31.

Containment: 90%

Expected Containment: 8/14

Cause: Lightning (started 8/7)

Personnel: 284

Total Cost-to-Date: \$900,000

Air Support: 17%

Crews & Equip: 56%

Logistical Support: 27%

(IMT, ICP, camp, showers, caterer, etc.)

Evacuations: None

Closures/Restrictions:

Forest Roads 31 and 3140 are not recommended for public travel due to heavy fire traffic in the fire area.

For More Information:

Malheur National Forest
(541) 575-3000