



**U.S. Forest Service**  
**Klamath National Forest**  
**1711 South Main Street**  
**Yreka CA 96097**  
**Voice: 530-842-6131**  
**Email: [klamathinfo@fs.fed.us](mailto:klamathinfo@fs.fed.us)**  
**Web: [www.fs.usda.gov/klamath](http://www.fs.usda.gov/klamath)**



# News Release

**June 23, 2016**

**Public Pony Fire information:**  
**530-643-7669**  
**Email: [KNFPonyfire@gmail.com](mailto:KNFPonyfire@gmail.com)**

**Media Contact: Ian Shackelford**  
**530-841-4485**  
**[ishackelford@fs.fed.us](mailto:ishackelford@fs.fed.us)**

## Pony Fire Update: June 23, 2016

Happy Camp, CA -- The Pony Fire is burning on the Klamath National Forest, about fifteen miles southwest of Happy Camp and west of Highway 96. The fire is now 2,858 acres and 60 percent contained. On Wednesday, crews again patrolled and improved containment lines on the northern, eastern and southern perimeters of the fire, increasing mop-up depth where possible. They felled snags, moved logs to prevent them from rolling downhill, and extinguished burning material along or near containment lines.

Fire spread was minimal on Wednesday, although increased smoke was visible as the weather warmed. Helicopter water drops were used to check fire growth at one location at the southeast edge of the fire. Firefighters cut down hazard trees near Pony Peak and used a chipper to remove brush along Sidewinder Road (Forest Road 14N69). The brush had been cut earlier to create a fuel break to protect homes along Highway 97.

Temperatures are expected to cool on Thursday, as a fast-moving system from the Pacific Ocean passes to the north of the fire area. Crews will again hold and patrol all containment lines and continue to monitor the slop-over into the Dillon Creek drainage. Little fire growth is expected with the cooler weather. The relief will be short-lived, however, with a warming and drying trend beginning on Friday.

For public and firefighter safety, a temporary closure order has been issued for lands within and adjacent to the Pony fire. The closed area includes National Forest land west of Highway 96, north of the Ukonom Ranger District boundary, east of Siskiyou Wilderness, and south of a line defined along Crawford Creek, Forest Road 15N19, and Bear Creek/Kelsey Trail. Dillon Creek Campground remains open.

More information and maps of the closure area are available on the Klamath National Forest website

[www.fs.usda.gov/klamath](http://www.fs.usda.gov/klamath).

Information, maps, and closures are also posted on Inciweb at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4769/>.



Caption: Firefighters from the Baker River Hotshots working on a ridgetop fire line near Bear Peak on June 14.

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