



**Pacific Northwest Region  
Malheur National Forest  
541-575-3000  
[www.fs.usda.gov/malheur](http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur)**

# FIRE UPDATE

Shilo Burton 541-575-3008

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## ***Local Type 3 Team takes over the West Fork Fire***

**JOHN DAY, OR** – The Forest’s Type 3 Team has taken over the **West Fork Fire**, burning on the north slope of the Aldrich Mountain range in the former Thorn Fire area. The fire is now estimated at 130 acres.

Crews face extremely dangerous conditions of steep terrain, thick timber snags, and minimal escape routes. “Reducing risk to firefighters and the public is the first priority,” says Todd Gregory, Deputy Fire Staff.

The fire was initially reported on June 29 and held through Saturday, July 4, when winds pushed it past the retardant lines. Heavy aerial response has been the main emphasis since the fire was reported. It was stated by air resources that there was one snag falling per hour in the fire perimeter. The Team is evaluating where to safely and most effectively place control lines at this time. Their focus is currently on dozer line preparation at private boundaries and other contingency lines. An infrared flight is scheduled for this evening.

Temperatures are expected to remain in the upper 90’s with potential for thunderstorms in the area starting Tuesday and continuing through Sunday. “The team is currently working on a full containment strategy” says Todd Gregory, Deputy Fire Staff, “Crews will also take advantage of any moisture that comes with the predicted weather.”

Meanwhile, John Day Interagency Dispatch Center (JDIDC) for the **North half of the Malheur National Forest**, and Burns Interagency Contact Center (BICC) covering the **South half of the forest**, had no new fires to report over the weekend.

**The fire danger rating across the Malheur National Forest is currently at HIGH. Industrial Fire Precaution Level II and Phase A of Public Use Restrictions are in effect forest-wide.**

For more information on the Malheur National Forest, please visit us at [www.fs.usda.gov/malheur](http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur), follow [U.S. Forest Service- Malheur National Forest](#) on Facebook, and follow [@MalheurNF](#) on Twitter for all the latest forest news.

For additional forest information, contact 541-575-3000. To report a fire, please contact the John Day Interagency Dispatch Center at 541-575-1321, or Burns Interagency Communication Center at 541-573-1000.

Local dispatch information can be found at <http://bicc-jdidc.org/index.shtml>.

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## NEWS RELEASE

*(continued)*



*Picture taken of the West Fork Fire on July 5 shows the extreme hazards that crews face, including thick timber snags, steep, rocky terrain, and minimal escape routes.*

*Photo courtesy of Kevin Brock, Blue Mountain Ranger District Assistant Fire Management Officer.*

