



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

# FIRE UPDATE

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July 8, 2015  
9:00 a.m.

## ***West Fork Fire Update***

**JOHN DAY, OR** – The **West Fork Fire**, burning on the north slope of the Aldrich Mountain range in the former Thorn Fire area, remained very active throughout the day yesterday and into the early evening, increasing to 725 acres. The fire continues to move most aggressively to the south toward the 2150 Road with uphill and wind driven runs, establishing in the various drainages.

Crews have built hand and dozers lines on the northern perimeter, but snags falling across established control lines appear to be an issue. So far, resources have been able to catch these areas of concern. Building and reinforcing dozer line around the fire perimeter will be a main focus for the day, using lines from the former Thorn Fire burn wherever possible.

The fire's location possesses extremely dangerous conditions of steep terrain, falling timber snags, and minimal escape routes. The top priority is to reduce risk to firefighters and the public. Thunderstorms with gusty, erratic winds are expected over the fire area as early as this afternoon, with abundant lightning, which could increase the chance of the fire spreading. High winds blowing over snags remains a main concern. Resources continue to identify and work to mitigate these danger trees in areas of concern. Aviation and dozer resources will continue to be utilized heavily due to the conditions of the location of the fire.

The fire continues to be hit aggressively with aircraft. Yesterday's air support included 3 heavy and 3 medium helicopters, 2 single engine air tankers (SEATs), large air tankers (LATs), and the very large air tankers (VLATs), which fought on into the evening.

Resources assigned include five 20-person crews, one tender, four falling modules, three skidgines, two dozers, one masticator, and 11 miscellaneous overhead. Various additional resources are currently being ordered. Additionally, Oregon Team 2 has been ordered and will take over management effective Thursday, July 9 at 0600.

West Fork Fire can be found on InciWeb at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4371/>.

**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. Please be sure to monitor closely as conditions can change quickly prompting an increase to these regulations.**

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.



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