



Malheur National Forest
Blue Mountain Ranger District

Oregon Interagency
Incident Management
Team 2



West Fork Fire Update

Thursday, July 9, 2015, 9:00 a.m.

Fire Information: (541) 987-2348

JOHN DAY, OR – The West Fork Fire is burning on the north slope of the Aldrich Mountain range within the former Thorn Fire area, 10 miles southeast of Dayville, Oregon.

To reduce traffic in the fire area and ensure firefighter and public safety during the West Fork Fire, a temporary road closure is now in effect for **Forest Road 2150**, west to the Aldrich Mountain Lookout from the intersection with Forest Road 2150-070, in the Aldrich Mountain range. The official Area Closure Order and map will be available on InciWeb at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4371/>.

Today at 6:00 a.m., the Oregon Interagency Incident Management Team 2, headed by Incident Commander Brett Fillis, took over management of the West Fork Fire.

The West Fork Fire had minimal fire growth yesterday. Thunderstorms passed through the area in the afternoon and brought some precipitation to the fire area, as well as a concern for firefighter safety. Due to the abundant lightning and increase in wind, fire personnel were pulled from the fire line and waited until the weather system had passed. Fire personnel reported a 30 degree temperature drop in a matter of minutes once the thunder cells were overhead. Crews will continue to face extremely dangerous conditions of steep terrain and thick stands of dead trees.

There is a Red Flag Warning for thunderstorms with abundant lightning from noon until 9 p.m. Scattered thunderstorms can be expected through Saturday potentially producing gusty winds. The dynamic and changing weather conditions will determine the level of potential fire behavior today. Limited fire spread is expected.

The focus today will be to continue to anchor containment lines around the north flank of the fire to protect adjacent private land, and to work upslope on indirect fire lines on the flanks of the fire. Snags from the previous fire in 2006 will continue to be a safety concern and containment challenge. Plans are being made to use fire lines from the 2006 Thorn Fire burn wherever possible to secure the lines. Aviation and dozer resources will continue to be utilized because of the location of the fire.

West Fork Fire information 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, 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.

Quick Facts Incident Summary	
Approximate Size:	725 acres
Fire Containment:	2%
Incident Commander:	Brett Fillis
Resources on the Fire:	Hand Crews: 5 Helicopters: 2 Engines: 2 Dozers: 2 Water Tenders: 2
Total Personnel:	134
Jurisdiction:	USDA-Forest Service Malheur National Forest Blue Mountain Ranger District
Social Media:	Facebook U.S. Forest Service- Malheur National Forest Twitter @MalheurNF Inciweb inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4371/