



Canyon Creek Complex Evening Update Monday, September 1, 2015

Fire Information: (541) 820-3643 or (541) 820-3633
Email Address: canyoncreekcomplex@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/canyoncreekfireoregon and/or
www.facebook.com/malheurnationalforest
Malheur NF www.fs.usda.gov/malheur/
Inciweb: http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4495/
Twitter: @CanyonCreekFire

Fire Activity Increased in the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Near Slide Creek

JOHN DAY, OR – The fire became active along the eastern perimeter in the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness today, spotting across the 1640 road (a.k.a. Roads End) and into the Slide Creek area. Warmer temperatures, lower relative humidity, and increased wind allowed fire to spot across firelines. Retardant drops and helicopter buckets were unsuccessful in controlling the spread of the fire. Smoke was visible from John Day and Prairie City. The fire exhibited a high resistance to control and firefighters disengaged due to spotting across the fireline. Tomorrow firefighters will reassess other locations for contingency lines.

Burnout operations in Dean Creek and Diesel Creek area continued and were successful in providing a slow and beneficial removal of unburned ground fuel. The fire perimeter is being brought downhill to control lines in order to secure the area. Occasional torching and burning may be visible throughout the night.

As of 6 a.m. Wednesday, all evacuation levels will be lowered. Prairie City will be lowered to a Level 1, the Strawberry, Dog, Pine and Indian Creek areas will be lowered to a Level 2. Please see the attached evacuation update for more details.

“We ask that people respect the Level 2 evacuations and understand that there are still numerous fire resources in those area performing critical suppression actions,” said Incident Command Beth Lund. “Please do not interfere with firefighters’ ability to get these actions completed and the areas secured for good.”

Structure protection is in place near the fire’s northeastern flank in the Pine and Indian Creek areas. Nightshift resources will continue to patrol that area. Crews continued to secure, mop up, and repair hand and dozer lines from John Day west and south to Parrish Cabin.

A cold front is expected to move into the area later this evening. Winds will increase as the front approaches, and relative humidity will rise. Winds will generally be from the west and southwest with gusts reaching 20 to 25 mph along ridgetops.

Additional Information

There is a Forest Closure in effect for the fire and Strawberry Mountain Wilderness. Copies of the closure orders and associated maps are available at www.fs.usda.gov/detail/malheur/home/?cid=stelprd3845529.

Public Safety Alert: Please be aware of fire traffic and smoky conditions while driving. Forest officials ask that the public stay clear of all fire-related activities.

School is back in session throughout the area. Watch for children walking to school or waiting for school buses.

CR 62 and the 16 Road are open to through traffic. Highway 395 is open to traffic, however, firefighters, equipment and the power company are working along the side of the road and drivers should expect short delays. Drivers are urged to use caution and encouraged to drive with headlights on through these areas. For safety reasons do not stop along the road or enter into burned areas.

Additional area fire information can be found at JDIDC - BICC (John Day Interagency Dispatch Center - Burns Interagency Communication Center) sites online at <http://bicc-jdidc.org/index.shtml>.

Fire activity will likely have an effect on hunting this season. For more information, visit www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/

For the latest Malheur National Forest news, please visit www.fs.usda.gov/malheur or follow the Forest on Facebook at U.S. Forest Service-Malheur National Forest or on Twitter at [@MalheurNF](https://twitter.com/MalheurNF).

The American Red Cross Recovery Services program has completed services as of September 1, 2015, at 4:00 pm. Anyone needing Red Cross services may call 941-620-8454.

Reporting

To report a fire, contact the John Day Interagency Dispatch Center at (541) 575-1321 or the Burns Interagency Communication Center at (541) 573-1000.

