

Pacific Northwest Region | March 2024

# 2023 Wildfire Summary: Dinner, Grizzly, Chilcoot and Brice Creek Fires

## Lightning Strikes

A swath of lightning passing through Oregon the night of Aug. 24 resulted in over a dozen new starts on the Umpqua National Forest. The Dinner, Grizzly, Chilcoot and Brice Creek Fires grew quickly and required numerous incident management teams for effective management.



*Photo: Firefighters engaged in a firing operation utilizing drip torches to remove pockets of unburned fuel within the established indirect control line on the Brice Creek Fire. USDA Forest Service photo.*

## Unified Command

Brice Creek, Dinner, and Grizzly Fires were jointly managed by a Type 2 Incident Management Team. Working under a full suppression strategy, the priority was to mitigate impacts to the Bohemian Mining District, Fairview communication site, infrastructure, sensitive wildlife habitat, and private and industrial timber lands.

## Direct Suppression

Firefighters on the Chilcoot Fire worked together to go direct on the fireline in order to build and secure containment lines. Once progress was made, water pumps and hoses were able to be deployed to assist with continued containment efforts and mop-up activities. As of Oct. 7, the fire was 96% contained.

## UAS Use Saves Hundreds of Hours

Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS) were used extensively on the Grizzly and Chilcoot Fires. Their primary mission was to detect heat sources on or near the fireline. Saving hundreds of person-hours, the UAS flights also contributed to firefighter safety soaring over steep and unstable slopes that would have been hard to traverse on foot.



*Behind the Uncrewed Aerial System (UAS), the Chilcoot Fire's perimeter can be seen. This UAS flew a reconnaissance mission along the western flank's perimeter to detect heat using an infrared camera. USDA Forest Service Photo.*

Name	Start Date	Acres	Contained	Cause	Forest
Dinner Fire	Aug. 24	304	100% on Oct. 1	Lightning	Umpqua
Grizzly Fire	Aug. 24	324	0% on Oct. 1	Lightning	Umpqua
Chilcoot Fire	Aug. 24	1,940	96% on Sept. 30	Lightning	Umpqua
Brice Creek Fire	Aug. 24	571	100% on Oct. 1	Lightning	Umpqua