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News Release

June 15, 2016

Public Pony Fire information: 530-643-7669

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Pony Fire Update: Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Happy Camp, CA -- The Pony Fire is burning on the Klamath National Forest, about 15 miles southwest of Happy Camp and west of Highway 96. The fire is now 2,396 acres and 20 percent contained.

Cooler temperatures and a sprinkling of rain reduced fire activity on Tuesday, allowing firefighters to scout and build containment lines closer to the fire's edge. The fire smoldered in spots, with most of the heat on the southern perimeter. As much as half an inch of rain is expected on the fire over the next three days; however, a hot and dry weather pattern is expected next week.

On Tuesday, crews completed building direct line on the north side of the fire, from the ridge line of Pony Peak to Swillup Creek, in an effort to stop the fire's northern advance and protect the Crawford Vegetation Management Project, a 1,600-acre forest health and fuels reduction project.

Firefighters are using Swillup Creek as a direct containment line and will monitor the fire to keep it west of the creek. On the southeast flank, firefighters will continue to scout for opportunities to build direct line to halt fire spread toward homes along Highway 96.

The northwest side remains secure against a ridge-top containment line. The southwest edge of the fire has slowly advanced into extremely steep terrain of the Dillon Creek Drainage. Fire

crews will monitor the fire as it backs down the hill, while helicopters will continue to slow the fire's movement and keep the fire north and east of Dillon Creek.

Work also continues on contingency lines on the northwest side of the fire from Elbow Springs to Dillon Creek.

The Dillon Fire, which is 100 percent contained, is being monitored by air. No smoke is visible.

To ensure the safety of firefighters and the public, a Forest Closure Order is in effect for the Pony Fire area. The closure includes Pony Peak Road (14N39), Pony Peak Ridge Road (15N30), Dry Lake Road (15N28) and Bear Peak Road (15N19) from its intersection with Douglas Creek Road (15N24) westward to its end.

More information and maps of closed roads are available at the Klamath National Forest website (www.fs.usda.gov/klamath/). Information, maps, and closures are also posted on Inciweb at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4769/>



Caption: A hose lay on the northern side of the fire near Elbow Springs.

Photo taken on June 10, 2016.