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News Release

June 17, 2016

Public Pony Fire information: 530-643-7669

Email: KNFPonyfire@gmail.com

Pony Fire Update: Friday, June 17, 2016

A fire camp tour, open to the public, will be held at 1:00 pm Saturday, June 18th at River Park in Happy Camp. Come see what goes on behind the scenes. Please RSVP to (530) 643-7669 if you plan on attending.

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 2,963 acres and 25 percent contained.

Direct line that crews built on the northern flank of the fire, from the ridge line of Pony Peak to Swillup Creek, continues to hold. On the east side Swillup Creek continues to hold as a direct containment line. These lines are blocking fire growth northward and protecting the Crawford Vegetation Management Project, a 1,600-acre forest health and fuels reduction project. Today crews will continue to improve both lines.

Between a quarter and a half inch of rain fell on the fire on Thursday. Two to three hours of steady rain was expected in the area this morning, with clouds lingering tomorrow, before the return of hotter and dry weather on Sunday.

On the southern perimeter, firefighters will continue building direct and indirect containment line southward from Swillup Creek to Elliott Creek and westward from Elliott Creek in order to keep the fire from moving toward homes along Highway 96. Line construction is expected to take several days.

On Thursday, firefighters selected a landing spot for helicopters west of Cottage Grove. Construction of the helispot should be completed today. This will enable some crews to be delivered by air each morning, enabling more on site work time on containment lines.

The slop-over into the Dillon Creek drainage on the west flank at Pony Peak has not moved significantly under the cooler conditions, but will be re-evaluated as the weather warms. Extremely steep terrain and the threat of falling snags make the area dangerous for firefighters.

With the change in weather, fire managers demobilized some firefighters, engines and other personnel on Thursday reducing the work force on the fire to about 400 people. If fire activity increases with warmer temperatures and dryer conditions predicted next week, additional resources will be called back.

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: View of the Pony Fire as seen from Hwy 96, just east of Coon Creek.

Photo taken on June 16, 2016 around 2:00pm.