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News Release

June 19, 2016

Pony Fire information: 530-643-7669

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Pony Fire Update: Sunday, June 19, 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 2,855 acres and 55 percent contained.

After a period of cool and wet weather, a warming trend began Saturday that will bring at least two more days of summer-like temperatures to the fire area. The hot, dry spell is not predicted to last, with more unsettled conditions possible later in the week.

Five hotshot crews hiked into the fire area Saturday morning from Highway 96 to continue work on direct containment lines on the east and south perimeters. After staying overnight in spike camps near the line, the crews are expected to finish remaining sections of line today from Swillup Creek south to Elliott Creek and westward from Elliott Creek today.

On the eastern and southern containment lines, crews continue monitoring and holding the fire in the Swillup Creek drainage. Crews are using Swillup Creek as a direct containment line to prevent the fire from moving toward homes along Highway 96.

Fire managers are closely watching the slop-over into the steep and rugged Dillon Creek drainage on the west flank at Pony Peak. The steep terrain and the threat of falling snags from the 2001 Swillup Fire make the area too dangerous to insert firefighters.

On the northern perimeter, crews will patrol and improve the direct line, from the ridge line of Pony Peak to Swillup Creek, which is blocking fire growth northward and protecting the

Crawford Vegetation Management Project, a 1,600-acre forest health and fuels reduction project.

With planned work on containment lines nearing completion, Northern California Incident Management Team 2 is slated to transition fire operations to a smaller Type 3 team on Wednesday morning.

No smoke is visible on the Dillon Fire, located west of the Pony Fire. The fire is controlled and crews continue to monitor it.

For public and firefighter safety, a temporary closure order has been issued for lands within and adjacent to the Pony fire. The closed area includes National Forest land west of Highway 96, north of the Ukonom Ranger District boundary, east of Siskiyou Wilderness, and south of a line defined along Crawford Creek, Forest Road 15N19, and Bear Creek/Kelsey Trail. Dillon Creek Campground remains open.

More information and maps of the closure area are available on Inciweb at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4769/>



View looking north into Swillup Creek.

Photo taken on June 12, 2016