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News Release

June 21, 2016

Pony Fire information: 530-643-7669

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Pony Fire Update: Tuesday, June 21, 2016

A Public Information Meeting will be held tonight, June 21 at 6:00pm at the

Happy Camp Grange

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 2,877 acres and 60 percent contained.

On Monday, crews patrolled, held and improved containment lines that now contain most of the fire. Due to steep terrain, the slop-over in the Dillon Creek drainage on the west flank remains unlined.

For the first time firefighters hiked about a quarter of a mile into the three "fingers" of the slop-over in the Dillon Creek drainage to extinguish hotspots. Fire managers continue to monitor the slop-over to look for opportunities to minimize fire spread as the fire slowly backs downslope. Direct line cannot be safely built in this area because of the extremely steep terrain and the threat of falling snags from the 2008 Three Fire.

Crews also began mop-up on Monday on the fire's northern, eastern and southern flanks, working as deeply as possible to maintain containment without compromising safety. During mop-up, firefighters extinguish burning material along or near the line, fall snags and move logs to prevent them from rolling downhill.

Very little smoke was visible near the lines on Monday. Helicopters dropped water on two hot spots inside the eastern containment line.

A 10-person wildland fire module, assigned Monday to the Dillon Fire, found no hot spots on the fire, and declared it out. They installed water bars in several areas left vulnerable to downhill flows of water and mud into streams during thundershowers.

Slightly warmer temperatures are expected Tuesday, cooling a few degrees on Wednesday and Thursday as a fast-moving system from the Pacific passes north of the fire area. Next week, hotter weather is predicted, with temperatures 10 to 15 degrees above normal.

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/>



Firefighters working to contain the Dillon Fire on June 9th