



## Plumas and Lassen National Forests

Fire Update –August 3, 2012 9:00 am

# Chips Fire Information

**NEW** Fire Information Phones: (530)283-7882/-7883/-7884

**InciWeb:** <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3052/>

**Location:** The fire is located approximately northwest and upslope of Belden, CA and Highway 70 (Feather River Canyon, Plumas County, CA). The human-caused fire started in the Chips Creek drainage along the Pacific Crest trail on July 29, 2012.

- Lat: 40.011 /Long: 121.277
- Township 25 North, Range 6 East, Section 14

**Current Size:** 4,352 acres

**Containment:** 5%

**Vegetation/** Heavy snag component with

**Resources** About 426 personnel including, 13 hand crews , 8

**Terrain:** brush over story -

**Assigned:** helicopters, 4 dozers, 3 water tenders, and 15 engines.

extremely steep, rocky &  
generally inaccessible

**Fire Behavior:** The fire remained relatively quiet overnight as cooler temperatures and moderate humidity recovery helped limit fire spread. Firefighters will again be facing very hot and dry weather today and working under a very unstable air mass. Heat near the north end of the fire has the potential to produce large runs and spots fires if the inversion lifts today. The fire will continue to spread northeast into the Squirrel and Yellow Creek drainages. The spot fire above Caribou Road has grown to over 300 acres and will continue to spread into the North Fork Feather River Canyon. The southern perimeter will continue to back down the slope toward Highway 70. One-way controlled traffic remains along Highway 70 for a 3 mile stretch near Belden due to fire spread toward the highway. All areas near the fire can expect smoky conditions to persist. Southwesterly winds will continue to push smoke into the Almanor Basin and all the way into the Honey Lake Valley in Lassen County. Thunderstorm activity predicted for this weekend could pose challenges for fire management objectives.

**Structures:** The mandatory evacuation orders for Maggie's Trailer Park and Little Haven were lifted yesterday, but remain under a precautionary evacuation notice. A hard closure remains in place along Caribou Road from Highway 70 to Butt Lake. Gansner Bar, North Fork, and Queen Lily USFS campgrounds remain closed. Communities of Meadow Valley, Chester, Canyon Dam, Greenville, and Susanville area are not threatened nor are those to the far west including Tobin, Paradise, Jarbo Gap, Concow, etc. Structure protection continues for residences/businesses around and near Belden. No damages have been reported to any structures as a result of fire activity.

**Closures:** A fire closure area has been established and will be in place until the area is safe. Please see the Forest Order and closure map on inciweb (address above). Pacific Crest trail hikers may bypass the area by hiking Highway 70/89 or catching a bus with Plumas Transit to Chester, CA (weekdays only). Travelers should check highway 70 conditions regularly (800-427-ROAD / [www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov)). Motorists need to anticipate firefighting personnel and apparatus on the road in the vicinity of the fire.

McGowan's Type 1 Incident Management Team assumed command of the fire at 6am this morning.