



Fossil Creek Fire
BLM-Prineville District
Oregon California (ORCA)
Interagency Incident Management Team



Friday, July 20, 2007

Contact: Fossil Creek Fire Information Office
Incident Command Post at the Dayville Schools
Telephone Number: 541 987-2543
Internet web site: inciweb.org/incident/826

Fire crews are actively suppressing the Fossil Creek Fire as the weather continues to mitigate the fire behavior. Burn out operations have been completed and crews will begin to mop-up all burning material near the fire line to further secure the perimeter of the fire. The smaller fire located 6 miles south west of the main fire, was declared controlled yesterday at 194 acres. Last night fire engines were given the mission of patrolling the fire perimeter and monitoring for any escape fire. Tree falling crews will be reducing hazards where fire crews are working by dropping or “falling” fire-weakened dead trees called snags. This is a major safety concern especially at night.

Temperatures are increasing and any recent moisture across the fire area will be evaporating. Humidities are predicted to be around 23% today. The fuel moisture in the live and dead vegetation will be approaching the levels that they were prior to the cooler and wetter weather.

Fire managers will be planning for fire fighting resource needs for the next few days and will begin to release unneeded crews and equipment to other fires. Fire line rehabilitation efforts will also begin to mitigate the effects from suppression efforts.

The Fossil Creek Fire is 3,155 acres and is considered 80% contained. There are 413 people assigned to this incident, including nine, 20-person crews; four helicopters; 19 fire engines and one dozer.

Even though the Fossil Creek Fire is not as smoky as past days, visibility along Highway 26 and 19, near the Fossil Beds National Monument may still be periodically impaired. Drivers using State Highway 19 through the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument are asked to use extra caution at the intersection of Holmes Creek and Highway 19 where fire apparatus are entering and exiting onto the highway.

###