



**UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST**  
**Trout Meadows Fire Update**  
Saturday August 11, 2007 at 8:00 a.m.

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Crews were busy yesterday completing the hand-constructed fire line at the southern part of the 3,970 acre Trout Meadows Fire, located 30 miles southeast of Ukiah, Oregon. They also started to strengthen and further secure the lines by conducting burn-out operations. This will remove most burnable vegetation and down woody material near the line and make it easier for crews to defend the fire line if the wind changes and threatens to push the fire across the line. Helicopters will assist the fire fighters and watch for spot fires that would be below the crews and could put them at risk. The helicopters will also be called upon to drop water on hot spots north of the line to make the mop-up easier and safer for the fire fighters or to cool down spot fires south of the line.

Over 130 fire fighters are now camped at Moon Meadows to minimize their travel time and exposure to dangerous roads and to maximize their time along the perimeter of the fire. Crews are continuing to use minimum impact suppression tactics within the Wilderness as they reach their goal of full containment, expected on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August.

Today the temperatures are predicted to be much higher and the relative humidity much lower than yesterday. When the relative humidity drops to 20 percent or less (as predicted), fire managers become extra cautious and monitor the fire behavior very carefully. The probability of ignition if a burning ember reaches a fine fuel bed, such as grass or dead tree needles, is greatly increased when the relative humidity is below 20 percent.

Yesterday, two additional new fire starts from previous lightning events were discovered and quickly contained by fire crews. These were some distance from the main fire and fire fighters found the actual tree that the lightning struck causing the fire.

The Trout Meadows Fire is 45 percent contained and after additional hand crews arrived last night, now has 727 people assigned to fight this fire. There are also four helicopters, 14 fire engines, 9 water tankers and 1 dozer on the fire. Structure protection resources remain in place for the private cabins near the fire.

No injuries have been reported to date. Portions of Forest Service Roads 51 and 52 remain closed to the public due to firefighting traffic and heavy smoke in the area. Numerous road, trail and an area closures are also in effect near the fire and the public is advised to visit the Umatilla National Forest web site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/> for the latest information.