



UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST **Trout Meadows Fire Update**

Thursday, August 16, 2007 at 8:00 a.m.

Contact: Kent Nelson

Telephone: (541) 427-3079

Incident Command Post located at the Sports Park in Ukiah, OR

On Wednesday afternoon, a brief afternoon thunderstorm caused twenty-nine new fires near Ukiah, OR and the Trout Meadows Fire. In order to better manage these fires, the Umatilla National Forest has given responsibility of the Trout Meadows Fire to the Maine Incident Management Team (IMT), who arrived on Wednesday morning. The ORCA IMT will manage the new Ukiah Complex fires and the Oregon Dept. of Forestry and local Forest Service will be responsible for initial attack responses.

The Trout Meadows fire remains at 3890 acres in size and is 95% contained. The fire is mostly located within the North Fork John Day Wilderness. Despite the high temperatures and challenging terrain, no injuries were reported on Wednesday. Many resources have been transferred to the Ukiah Complex, but two crews are still assigned to the Trout Meadows fire. This morning, an additional crew was assigned to the 1.5 acre Big Creek Fire, which was started by a lightning strike.

A red flag warning has been posted for Northeast Oregon between 11 a.m. and 8p.m. due to the slight chance of thunderstorms and gusty winds. State Highway 244 between Ukiah and Starkey was closed yesterday due to fire activity and heavy smoke in the area. The Oregon Dept. of Transportation has detailed information on the road closures on their website at www.tripcheck.com.

A public meeting has been scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the North Fork John Day Ranger District office in Ukiah. Detailed information on both the Ukiah Complex fires and the Trout Meadows Fire will be provided at the public meeting.

The public is invited to visit the Umatilla National Forest web site at www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/