



Inyo National Forest

Cow Fire Final Update

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Incident Start Date: 07/25/2019

Cause: Lightning

Size: 1,975 acres

Containment: 30%

Incident Type: Wildfire

Vegetation Type: Brush and timber

Injuries: 2

Agency: Inyo National Forest, U.S.D.A. Forest Service

Resources Assigned: Helicopters: 1 Crews: 1 Packers: 2

Total Personnel: 30

This will be the final update on the Cow Fire unless there are significant changes to report on the incident.

The 1,975-acre Cow Fire remains 30 percent contained. Minimal smoke may be visible from the Cow Fire until the area receives significant rainfall. Firefighters will continue to monitor the fire to ensure it stays within control lines. Containment will steadily increase as crews further secure control lines by identifying and extinguishing sources of heat along the fire perimeter.

The ecosystem within the Cow Fire footprint will benefit from the low-intensity fire effects observed on the landscape. Lightning-caused wildfires have a natural role to play in Eastern Sierra forest ecosystems. Burned materials recycle nutrients back into the soil which enriches it and stimulates vegetation growth. New grasses, shrubs and trees replenish and grow stronger while old growth stands become more resilient. Wildlife habitats are created and an increase in food becomes available for animals to forage. The hazardous accumulation of logs and overgrown surface fuels on the forest floor are reduced which diminishes the risk of severe wildfires in the future. Heat from fire opens the strong resin which holds seeds inside of the serotinous cones of Lodgepole Pine, allowing the species to reproduce.

The public is encouraged to avoid the fire area. Post-fire hazardous such as fire weakened trees and burning stump holes may be present.

For further information on the incident please visit InciWeb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6529/> (note: this fire is listed as the “Cow”; another fire in Oregon is the “Cow Fire” on InciWeb) or the Inyo National Forest Facebook page: www.facebook.com/inyonf.