

NEWS RELEASE

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION



Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogue-siskiyou

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August 8, 2012
9:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Fire Update: Red Buttes Wilderness Area

Medford, OR: Firefighters had varying degrees of success on the six fires burning within or near the Red Buttes Wilderness on the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Wednesday. The Lick and Hello Fires have challenged firefighters due to the steepness of the terrain causing the fires to spread upslope and laterally as burning material rolls out of the fires igniting dense unburned fuels. The Hello Fire is now estimated at 220 acres with 0% containment. The Lick Fire, burning outside the wilderness is now estimated at 80 acres and at 10% containment. Due to the arrival of additional resources and fire complexity, the Lick Fire transitioned today to a Type 3 incident command structure – Brad Clayton IC. The Goff Butte, Cedar Basin and Emily Fires have been declared out and the Fruit Fire has been fully contained with mop-up continuing.

A Type 2 Incident Management Team will take over management of the fires now burning on the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District as well as a number of fires currently burning nearby on the Klamath National Forest beginning Friday, August 10. “Our firefighters have done a great job working in some incredibly tough country,” said Siskiyou Mountains Fire Management Officer Gary Smith. “The steep terrain and poor access, coupled with aggressive burning and rollout compromised our ability to keep these two fires small.”

The public is reminded that there are now road and trail closures and increased fire restrictions in place on the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District.

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