



United States Department of Agriculture

Mad River Complex Update

Saturday, August 15, 2015, 8:00 am

Fire information: 707-574-6289, 7:00 am – 8:00 pm

<http://www.inciweb.nwcg.gov>

Date Started: July 30, 2015, 6:03 PM

Size: 22,415 acres

Containment: 55 percent

Cause: lightning

Estimated Cost to Date: \$18.6 million

Injuries: 5

Total Personnel: 1,186

Structures Destroyed: 2 residences, 2 outbuildings

Committed Resources: 17 crews, 110 engines, 4 helicopters, 14 dozers, 20 water tenders

CURRENT FIRE SITUATION

Pickett Fire (10,372 acres): Last night crews observed several large trees falling along the Highway 36 corridor. They also reported significant ash fall north and northwest of the fire. Today crews will again focus their firefighting and structure-protection efforts primarily on the northeast side near Forest Glen. The fire in that area is slowly backing from the ridgetops downslope toward Highway 36. Firefighters will continue to monitor the north side of Highway 36 for any additional spot fires. Crews will be patrolling along the Lower Mad River Road.

Gobbler Fire (8,287 acres): Crews observed minimal fire activity as they patrolled the fire last night. Today crews will continue to monitor, patrol, mop up, and secure the perimeter to ensure that embers from the fire's interior do not escape the containment line. No movement of this 99-percent-contained fire is anticipated.

Lassic Fire (3,756 acres): Crews patrolling overnight observed smoke from the interior on the southeast side of the fire. Yesterday the fire spotted across the west side of the Van Duzen River. Today crews will work to contain the couple-acre spot fire. Firefighters continue to build hand line in the Blanket Creek drainage, working west toward the Van Duzen River. Other crews scouted for opportunities to construct line on the northwest corner so that they can work south along the Van Duzen River. If conditions allow, helicopters will be used to help hold containment lines.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Today will be significantly warmer and drier than the last few days. Temperatures will be 80-90 degrees, and the relative humidity will be around 20 percent. Northeast winds will be light, gusting to 15 mph, keeping smoke over the fire area. If the smoke lifts expect even more warming, drying, and increased fire activity.

ROAD CLOSURES, EVACUATIONS, AND FOREST AREA CLOSURES

The road closures and evacuations orders have been lifted for the Ruth Lake area: the Van Duzen Road and Lower Mad River Road are now open to all traffic. Firefighters are still working along these roads, so please slow down when you are in the fire area.

Due to continued fire activity in the Ruth Lake area, the Forest Glen area, and the Mt. Lassic Wilderness, many Forest Service roads and campgrounds remain closed (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/article/4436/26990/> for more information).

Hard Closure (no one allowed to travel, including residents): Highway 36 will remain closed from South Fork Mountain Summit (mile marker 9.29) east to Lower Rattlesnake Road (mile marker 22). Route 23 is closed from Highway 36 to Cedar Gap. Forest Road 2S02 is closed from Route 23 west to Forest Road 2S54.



Forest
Service

Mandatory Evacuation: Residents in the Forest Glen area remain under a mandatory evacuation order.

Advisory Evacuation: Residents in the Swayback Ridge area remain under an evacuation advisory.

