

## Motorway Complex Pierce Update 16

Motorway North Group  
September 14, 2015

- The ten fires within the Motorway North Group being managed by the Southwest Incident Management Team are:
  - Lost Hat Fire
  - Musselshell Fire
  - 535 Fire
  - Hemlock Creek Fire
  - Rocky Fire
  - Austin Fire
  - Pete Forks Fire
  - Yoosa Fire
  - Snowy Summit Fire
  - Green Fire
- The management objectives for these fires are:
  - Prevent the spread of the fires to the west toward Pierce
  - Ensure that the fires remain within the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest
  - Protect historic structures and cultural resources within the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest
- A cold front worked its way into the area Sunday evening. This will lead to lower temperatures followed by rain this evening with a possible thunderstorm. Rain continues tonight and remains a strong possibility through Thursday. Temperatures will reach the mid-70s at the lower elevations and not climb out of the 60s at the higher elevations. Tuesday through Thursday, temperatures between 40 to 65 degrees are expected, depending on elevation.
- Fire crews will continue to patrol, secure and mop up all control lines on the Lost Hat, Yoosa, and Musselshell fires. Heavy equipment has been brought in to clear brush and hazard trees along roadways to help reopen these areas and provide protection to the crews and the recreating public.
- What is mop up? Mop Up & Burned Area Repair are the initial stages of returning the forest to its natural pre-fire state and an attempt to remove signs of human activity that occur during fire suppression activities. This helps curb erosion and promotes the regeneration of native vegetation. Lines created by fire fighters and heavy equipment to suppress fire activity are returned to their natural state. This is limited to burned over fire lines inside the fire perimeter. Exterior fire control lines will be maintained to ensure active fires remain in the containment zone. The forest will determine the appropriate time to rehabilitate these control lines. Hazard trees along roadways that could fall due to their weakened state from fire are felled to help make the area safer for the public.
- All area closures on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests have been lifted, but some road and trail closures remain in place to keep visitors safe. Closures are enforced with road blocks. For updates on closures, which will continue to change, please visit:  
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/nezperceclearwater/alerts-notices>

For information call: Motorway Complex Information Office: 208-926-4170