



## Motorway Complex Pierce Update 17

Motorway North Group  
September 15, 2015

- **Tomorrow will be the last update produced and distributed by the Southwest Incident Management Team. After Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, all Motorway Complex related questions should be directed to the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests at 208-451-4956.**
- 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
- Cold wet weather is expected for the next 72 hours. The rain will let up this afternoon, followed by partially clear skies and warmer weather but that will be short lived with rain returning tonight into Wednesday morning. The coldest and wettest weather will hit late Wednesday and remain through Thursday afternoon. Temperatures will reach the mid-60s at the lower elevations and not climb out of the 50s at the higher elevations. Low temperatures between 32-45 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. The wet weather over the next few days may hamper firefighter efforts to utilize heavy equipment for removing hazard trees near roads and trails and for rehabbing burned areas. The public is urged to use extreme caution when travelling in or through areas affected by wildfire
- 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. For updates on closures, which will continue to change, please visit:  
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/nezperceclearwater/alerts-notice>

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