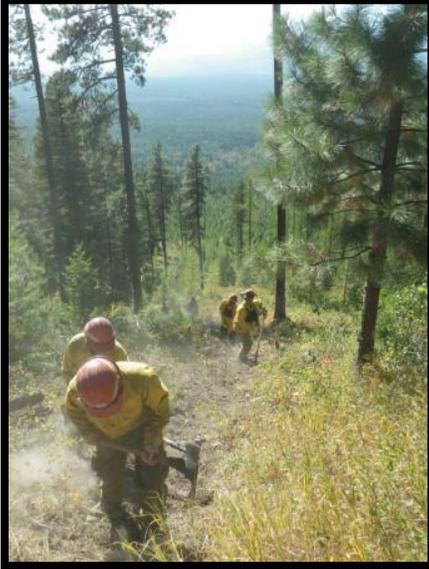


Fire Information – Condon Mountain Fire

Wednesday, September 19, 2012 10:00 AM



Fire fighters building a fuel break near Smith Creek

Cause: Lightning
Detected: July 28, 2012
Location: Approximately 4 miles northeast of Condon, MT.
Legal Description: Lat. 47° 36.0, Long. 113°40.5; SE/SE S5, T21N, R16W
Current size: 2160 acres; **Containment:** 50%
Jurisdiction: USDA-FS, Northern Region, Flathead National Forest, Swan Lake Ranger District; Montana DNRC, Swan River State Forest

Current Status: Yesterday, the fire was active in the south eastern portion of the fire, in the vicinity of the upper elevation areas of Condon Creek and Smith Creek. Helicopters working the fire were able to cool hotspots and check growth in those areas for the majority of the day; however as the heat of the day increased, bringing higher temperatures and lower relative humidities to the area, the helicopters were not as effective, and moderate fire behavior increased. With an inversion over the valley, a thermal belt held warm temperatures in the fire area, which caused burning to continue to occur into the night time hours. This night time burning was visible from Condon.

Today, Wednesday, September 19th, fire managers will use four helicopters to put water on the fire in order to limit growth. Heavy equipment, including two excavators, a harvester, and a feller-buncher, three engine crews, and a 10 person hand crew are working building a shaded fuel break line on the road system below the fire area through to the end of Forest Road 9762, and then eastward, to Cooney Lookout. Water pumps with hose and sprinklers are being set up along this fuel break. Fire managers do not plan to burn out along this fuel break until absolutely necessary. The fire has remained within containment lines to the north along Dog Creek; water pumps with hose and sprinklers remain in place if in the event the fire becomes active in that area.

The fire management objectives for Condon Mountain Fire include keeping the fire north of Smith Creek drainage, south of Dog Creek, and east of road 9762, 9813, and 10513; to use direct and indirect tactics as conditions allow, and to maintain fire fighter safety during incident operations.



Helicopter dropping water on the fire yesterday

Resources: Today, four helicopters, heavy equipment including two excavators, a harvester, and a feller-buncher, a 10-person hand crew, 3 engines, and a type 3 management team; overall, there are 55 people staffing the fire. Additional fire fighters and managers, four sawyer teams, and additional heavy equipment have been ordered for the following days.

Closures: Trail #29, the Smith-Little Salmon Trail remains closed.

Contacts: Inciweb: <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3070/>

Condon Mountain Fire (406) 754-0127

USFS Swan Lake District Office (406) 837-7500

DNRC Swan River State Forest (406) 754-2301

Swan Ecosystem Center (406) 754-3137