

# Fire Information – Condon Mountain Fire

Wednesday, September 19, 2012 6:00 PM

**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:** 2396 acres; **Containment:** 50%

**Jurisdiction:** Flathead National Forest, Swan Lake Ranger District; Montana DNRC, Swan River State Forest

**Current Status:** Today, Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, the fire is highly active and growing. The fire is spotting into and making runs in the Smith Creek drainage. The fire is also growing towards Smith Creek Pass; however it has not reached the pass. The fire is also backing down the west face of the mountain between Condon and Smith Creeks, with



Fire growing on the  
Condon Mountain Fire

occasional single tree torching occurring, as is visible from Condon.

Fire managers are using five helicopters and Super Scooper airplanes to put water on the fire in order to limit growth. The aerial resources are focusing efforts on the west face of the fire and in Smith Creek, slowing its growth downhill.

A shaded fuel break line is continuing to be constructed on the road system below the fire, along Forest Road 9762 to Cooney Mountain Lookout. Resources working on this fuel break include heavy equipment, such as two excavators, a harvester, and a feller-buncher, four engine crews, a hotshot crew, and a 10 person hand crew. 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.

For those concerned about possible evacuations in the Falls Creek area; there are no evacuation orders in effect. An evacuation plan has been drafted, if in the event it is needed in future days. The Missoula County Sheriff's office and the Missoula County Emergency Service Office will coordinate any evacuation. A Ready, Set, Go, concept will be utilized if an evacuation is needed. To learn more about evacuation preparedness, please visit the following websites:

<http://www.readyforwildfire.org/>     <http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/oes/>

Fire engine crews will be monitoring and patrolling the fire area overnight, relaying updates to fire managers.

The fire management objectives for Condon Mountain Fire include keeping the fire north of McKay 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.

**Resources:** Today, five helicopters, Super Scoopers, heavy equipment including two excavators, a harvester, and a feller-buncher, a hotshot crew, 10-person hand crew, 4 engines, and a type 3 management team; overall, there are 100 people staffing the fire. Additional fire fighters and managers, including a type 2 Incident Management team, and additional heavy equipment have been ordered for the following days.

**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