

FACT SHEET

Condon Mountain Fire

Swan Lake Ranger District

September 29, 2012 8:15 a.m.



Information Officers: Katie Knotek, Colter Pence & Ted Pettis
Fire Information Line: (406) 754-0127 w/answering machine
Office hours: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

New Email: condonmountainfire@gmail.com

Incident: The Condon Mountain Fire was started by lightning on 7/28.

Location: Approximately 4 miles northeast of Condon, MT.

Agency Jurisdiction: USFS, Flathead National Forest; Montana DNRC, Swan River State Forest

Cooperating Agencies: Swan Valley Rural Fire Dept., Lake County Sheriff's Office, Missoula County Sheriff's Office, Missoula County OES, Lake County OES, Swan Ecosystem Center

Incident Commander: Shawn Pearson, Northern Rockies Type II Incident Management Team (IMT). The Incident Command Post (ICP) is located at the Condon Work Center.

Current Size: 5,200 acres

Containment: 45%

Structures Threatened: 12

Status: The fire is burning in heavy timber with numerous, standing snags. The area consists of steep, hazardous terrain with high potential for rollout and spotting. The fire is located just west of the Bob Marshall Wilderness and is visible from Highway 83. There are structures in the Swan Valley within 1½ miles of the current fire perimeter. All residents east of Highway 83 in the Condon area are under a "Ready" Stage 1 Alert for the *potential* of a future evacuation.

However, there are no evacuations in effect at this time. Structure protection has been established for the structures nearest to the fire between McKay and Cooney Creeks. An air quality monitor is set up at Condon Work Center. To monitor air quality in the local area, go to <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/smoke.pl> and select "Smoke 24."

Yesterday's Activities: Fire activity increased yesterday, and included flanking, backing, and short uphill runs with isolated group tree torching. Helicopters were again used for water bucket drops to cool hotspots. Hand crews began direct attack along the fire's edge between Smith Creek and Cooney Creek. Mop up work, using hose lays to wet hotspots, continued along the perimeter of the burnout areas. Rehabilitation and erosion control work continued along the contained areas of the fire perimeter.

Current Resources: **Four** 20-person crews, **one** 10-person crew, **six** engines, **one** pieces of heavy equipment, **one** water tenders, and **four** helicopters. Total personnel: **184**.

Today's Activities: Weather today will include temperatures in the 70's, relative humidity in the 22-33% range and shifting winds up to 18 mph on the ridge tops. Crews will continue to use hose lays to wet hotspots along and within the perimeter of the completed burnout area. Opportunities for a direct attack on the fire's edge between Smith Creek and Cooney Creek will continue, as conditions allow. Helicopters with water bucket drops will be used to cool the fire perimeter on the south/southwestern perimeter and minimize spread.

Restrictions/Closures: There is an Area Closure around the fire for public safety, which includes closure of Trail #29 (Smith-Little Salmon), Trail #192 (East Foothill) and the Cooney Lookout. Trails #415 and #42 remain open. A temporary flight restriction (TFR) is in effect surrounding the fire area and the Condon Airstrip is closed to all non-fire aircraft.

For further information, visit: www.inciweb.org; Select "Condon Mountain"