

Horse Creek Complex and Rebel Fire

Update for Sunday, September 24, 2017, 9 a.m.

Fire Information: (541) 719-8371

Online: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>

<https://facebook.com/WillametteWildfires2017>

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Rebel Fire: 8,703 acres

Horse Creek Complex: Olallie Lookout Fire, 1,572 acres; Roney Fire, 3,548 acres; Avenue Fire, 3,398 acres; Separation Fire, 17,914 acres; Nash Fire, 6,738 acres.

Total all fires: 41,873 acres (An infrared flight was conducted on September 23, resulting in an increase of 603 acres.)

Resources: Personnel, 337; Crews, 5; Helicopters, 1; Engines, 15; Water Tenders, 3; Skidgen, 1.

Weather: The weather continues to accommodate suppression repair on the Horse Creek Complex and Rebel Fire. Partly cloudy to sunny skies with temperatures climbing into the 60s are forecast for today, accompanied by lower humidity levels. The warming and drying trend will continue through the week. The remaining fires may smolder and smoke a bit more with improving weather; however, fires are not expected to move as all fuel types have sufficiently moistened.

Next Steps: Suppression repair continues with chipping, hazardous tree falling, and removal of salvageable timber. As chipping progresses to a third day, crews use the experience gained to improve efficiency and speed up the process. Continued drying of soils will allow repair work on dozer and hand lines to be completed on a similar schedule. With suppression repair in high gear, firefighting personnel and their equipment are being demobilized and made available for other wildfires still burning in the Pacific Northwest or to get some needed rest.

Current Situation: On the Rebel Fire, salvage logging is nearly complete. The dozer and hand lines installed on the Avenue Fire will continue to dry out this weekend, and repair work will commence early next week. Hand lines are being stabilized on the northwest side of the Separation Fire. North of the fire, crews are using trails to retrieve pumps and hoses at Camp Melakwa. Northeast of the Separation Fire, chipping operations bordering Highway 242 will be completed this weekend.

Fire monitoring and suppression actions continue. Firefighters are monitoring the Olallie Lookout Fire and Roney Fire located in the Three Sisters Wilderness Area. The remaining fires that threatened critical values such as homes, roads and utilities are being patrolled by hand crews and are being mopped up as needed. A recent infrared flight was used to detect heat that is checked on the ground to ensure it is no longer a threat. The IR flight was also used to update fire acreage. Any increase in fire size noted in today's update likely happened before the start of this week's precipitation, given the last IR flight occurred September 15.

National Forest Closure Orders: Some closures are still in place on both National Forests. Current information about closures on the Willamette and Deschutes National Forests is available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/willamette/fire/?cid=fseprd552029> <http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/Deschutes/alerts-notices>. Fire restrictions have been lifted in Willamette and Deschutes National Forests, and campfires are now allowed.

Flight Restrictions: A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) remains in place over the fires to provide a safe environment for firefighting aircraft operations. It is not legal to operate any aircraft (including drones) within a TFR. More information on the TFR is available at <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>.