



**Pacific Northwest Region**  
**Malheur National Forest**  
541-575-3000  
[www.fs.usda.gov/malheur](http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur)

# FIRE UPDATE

Bald Sisters Fire Information: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4055/>

September 20, 2014

## ***Bald Sisters Fire spreads north of Reynolds Creek***

**JOHN DAY, OR** – With persistent dry conditions, the Bald Sisters Fire continues to grow in size within established, defensible containment lines, and is now 2,559 acres. With light, easterly winds the next few days, smoke from the fire will drift into the John Day Valley.

The fire is moving mostly north and east within the Reynolds Creek drainage. There is less fire spread on the southwest and southeast sides of the burned area. A previous spot fire in the North Fork of Deardorff Creek has remained contained. A new fire perimeter map based on an infrared flight last night is posted on inciweb.nwcg.gov or go to <http://1.usa.gov/1qk8mvO>.

The containment line completed last month -- built strategically along roads and natural barriers - continues to provide a safe point of engagement for fire fighters on all sides of the fire, should the fire activity escalate and additional suppression actions become needed.

Currently, two 20-person hand crews and six 3-person engine crews are either monitoring or patrolling the fire area, or remain pre-positioned with water tenders to response to any new spot fires approaching containment lines. Water and fire retardant drops by aircraft and firing operations are options which could be used in the next few days, if needed to prevent fire spread to the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest boundary. Contingency plans are also in place should the fire approach the North Fork of Reynolds Creek or the Elkhorn Communication Site and power lines.

The Forest has scheduled a public briefing for Wednesday, September 24, from 7:00 -9:00 p.m. at the Prairie City Community Center to provide an update about the fire and an outlook into the fall.

“We’ll be explaining the fire’s progression and our continuing operations,” said Bald Sisters Incident Commander Brian Bishop. “I look forward to showing folks what’s been happening for 8 weeks, and why.”

**Due to fire activity, an Area Closure remains in effect to ensure public safety. Area Closures remain in effect for not only the Bald Sisters Fire, but also the South Fork Complex at this time.** The current Area Closure Orders, along with maps, are available at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/malheur/alerts-notice>.



for the greatest good

## NEWS RELEASE

(continued)

The Bald Sisters Fire closure covers an area around Baldy Mountain in the Inventoried Roadless Area:

- Starting at the Malheur National Forest (MNF) boundary and Forest Road (FR) 2635 in Sec. 30, T 13S, R 35E to the intersection with Forest Service Road (FSR) 101 in Sec. 16, T 13S, R 35 ½ E.
- East to intersection with FSR 2652 in Sec. 9, T 13S, R 35 ½E.
- South to FSR 600 in Sec. 9, T14S R35 ½ E;
- Southwesterly to FSR 268 in Sec. 16, T14S, R 35 ½ E
- Southwesterly to FSR 13 in Sec. 17, T 14S, R 35 ½ E.
- North and northwesterly on FSR 13 to the MNF boundary in Sec. 31, T 13S, and R 35E.
- North along MNF boundary to starting point at FSR 2635.
- Perimeter roads open for through traffic.

Forest Officials encourage everyone to be safe and careful when recreating, hunting, or using the National Forest. **Please make sure your campfires are DEAD OUT before leaving their site;** the fire should be cold to the touch with no potential to ignite. Although temperatures are getting cooler at night, we are still in fire season; vegetation is still very dry, and the weather is still hot during the day.

**FIRE RESTRICTIONS:** The north half, including Blue Mountain and Prairie City Ranger Districts, of the Malheur National Forest are in Phase A of the Public Use Restrictions (PURs), which addresses use of campfires, chainsaws (firewood cutting), internal combustion engines, smoking, generators, and off-road/off-trail vehicle travel. The south half, including Emigrant Creek Ranger District, remains in Phase B of the PURs, which prohibits or restricts use of campfires, chainsaws (firewood cutting), internal combustion engines, smoking, generators, and off-road/off-trail vehicle travel. The specific PURs information can be found at this location: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur/>.

**The public is responsible for knowing if restrictions are in place and can obtain information through many avenues:**

Call the Forest's offices or District offices at:

- Malheur National Forest/Blue Mountain Ranger District: 541-575-3000
- Prairie City Ranger District: 541-820-3800
- Emigrant Creek Ranger District: 541-573-4300

OR Visit the Forests website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur/>.

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