



View Lake Fire Complex

Fire Information Update

www.inciweb.org

www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood/

www.pnw2.com

www.fs.fed.us/r6/willamette/

Contact: Public Information Office 503-834-5507

Friday, August 27, 2010 – 9:30 am PDT Update

Fire	Acres	% Contained	Cost	Total Personnel
View Lake Fire Complex	3,037*	30%**	\$2,731,000	604

*Acreage increase due to additional intelligence gathered via aerial and hand-held infrared technology.

**Containment decrease is due to recent assessments made on all of the fires that make up the View Lake Fire Complex.

News & Events for the View Lake Fire Complex:

- Expect increased traffic associated with weekend recreationists; motorists are advised to proceed with caution due to increased traffic and heavy equipment on Highway 224/Forest Road 46 associated with firefighting efforts.
- Due to continuing work on the View and Pyramid Butte Fires, the closure for Olallie Lake Scenic Area is anticipated to remain in effect through the weekend, at a minimum
- Due to active fire in Bull of the Woods Wilderness, the closure order has been expanded. The Bagby Hot Springs Trail (#544) from Bagby to Elk Lake will remain open, but all trails and the wilderness area east of Trail #544 are closed
- A 100-acre spot fire (east of the Pyramid Butte Fire and north of Rock Cone) moved onto Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs reservation lands yesterday
- A Long Term Assessment Team is working closely with the Mt Hood National Forest and the Pacific Northwest Team 2 to make recommendations for management actions associated with the Bull of the Woods Wilderness fires; primary objectives include providing for firefighter safety, protecting values at risk, and allowing fire to play its natural role in the wilderness and protect the historic Bull of the Woods lookout while utilizing cost-effective strategies to keep the fire in the wilderness

VIEW LAKE FIRE COMPLEX STATUS:

Fire behavior is expected to be moderate to minimal today, providing a good opportunity for firefighters to make progress with containment efforts. Smoke dispersal may be delayed until late morning due to the marine layer.

Yesterday, the Pyramid Lake Fire crossed Forest Road 4220 to the north and firefighters are continuing to work on a containment line to stop the spread. The Pyramid Fire has burned in an extremely varied mosaic pattern with a high amount of unburned fuels, which is a work intensive situation for crews to ensure the fire spread is kept in check. Today, crews will continue working on opportunities for developing a containment line and mop up associated with the 100-acre spot fire that moved onto tribal lands; the spot fire also burned in a varied mosaic pattern. Crews will also continue with mop up efforts associated with the View Lake Fire with good progress being made; hose lays are in place to provide structure protection for the Olallie Lake Resort if needed. Intermittent smoke associated with the View Lake Fire may be visible for some time due to patches of heavy unburned fuels in the interior. To the north and east of the Bull of the Woods Wilderness, operations personnel are looking for opportunities to utilize existing road systems to keep the fire contained should it spread beyond wilderness boundaries.

Evacuations: The Olallie Lake Scenic Area campgrounds & resort have been evacuated for public safety purposes. Fire operations personnel are closely monitoring fire status to determine when the area can be reopened for recreational use; however, it is anticipated the area will remain closed through the weekend, at minimum.

Closures:

- The Olallie Lake Scenic Area and associated portion of the Pacific Crest Trail(PCT)
- A portion of the Mt Jefferson Wilderness and associated portion of the PCT
- An amended closure that includes most of the Bull of the Woods Wilderness, including portions of the Elk Creek, Mother Lode and Dickey Creek Trails. Trail #544 between Bagby Hot Springs and Elk Lake remains open.
- Forest Road 4220 is closed at its junction with Forest Road 46 at the south end and Forest Road 4690 at the north end.

Pacific Crest Trail Hiker Shuttle System: The PCT is currently closed on the south at Jefferson Park north through the Olallie Lake Scenic Area. The Mt Hood and Willamette National Forest have arranged to shuttle hikers on an intermittent basis between the south fork Breitenbush Trail and the Triangle Lake Equestrian Campground. Hikers are being shuttled, as needed, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

FIRE FACTS:

View Lake Fire Complex: Started: August 17, 2010; **Cause:** Lightning; **Location:** 45 miles east of Estacada in Marion and Clackamas Counties; **Resources:** 19 hand crews, 4 helicopters, 8 engines, 4 water tenders, 604 total personnel.

SAFETY CONCERNS: Steep, rocky terrain with numerous standing dead trees (snags) and rolling material, long travel times to fire, unburned interior fuels.

RESOURCE CONCERNS: Fires near high use recreation areas; protection of wilderness values and cultural resources through the use of Minimum Impact Suppression Techniques (MIST), utilizing existing trails and natural barriers as control lines where possible.

VALUES AT RISK: Olallie Lake Resort, Forest Service Campgrounds, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs reservation lands, the historic Bull of the Woods Lookout.

WEATHER: A marine air mass will continue to bring cool weather and higher relative humidities into the fire area. Morning clouds will give way to partly sunny skies this afternoon with small cumulus buildup over ridges. Northwesterly winds will continue to be breezy, although not as strong as yesterday. Cool weather will continue Saturday and Sunday with isolated light showers possible. Maximum temperature today around 65 degrees with minimum relative humidity 45% to 50%.

TODAY'S EXPECTED FIRE BEHAVIOR: Fire behavior is expected to be minimal today due to the influence of moist marine air, providing good opportunities for firefighters to make progress with containment efforts.

COOPERATING AGENCIES & PARTNERS: Mt Hood National Forest, Willamette National Forest, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Clackamas and Marion Counties.