

# Fire Update

Monday, August 10, 2015, PM

## Collier Butte Fire – Gold Beach, Oregon

Fire Location: Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

Incident Commander: Doug Johnson

Information Center – 541-247-4447

Inciweb: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4461>

Email: [Collierbuttefire@gmail.com](mailto:Collierbuttefire@gmail.com)

Facebook: [U.S. Forest Service-Rogue River - Siskiyou National Forest](https://www.facebook.com/USForestServiceRogueRiverSiskiyouNationalForest)



**A community meeting to provide information about the Collier Butte Fire will be held in Agness on Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 6 pm. The meeting will be held historic Agness at the Community Hall. An additional community meeting will be held in Brookings Thursday, 6pm, August 13, 2015 at the Brookings-Harbor High School gymnasium.**

The Collier Butte Fire continues to burn in the northwest portion of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness and remote Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest System lands on the Gold Beach Ranger District. The fire is estimated 3,000 acres and is 5% contained. The fire poses no immediate threat to any communities along the coast. There are no highway closures and businesses remain open to the public.

The full suppression strategy of this fire was determined through a complexity analysis completed by the Rogue-River National Forest. Fuels in the area are extremely dry due to prolonged drought. The fire area has varied fuels types, including the green, moist fuels near creeks, old growth in the wilderness, and large areas of heavy brush and burned vegetation from the Biscuit Fire. These factors along with topography and weather are considered in the tactics fire managers are using to contain the fire. The fire has been moving in a northeasterly direction due to the current weather pattern in the area. This weather is forecasted to continue through Friday.

Crews on the northern edge were able to burn out approximately 1 ½ miles of containment line, extending to the west. This was supported by helicopters cooling any hot spots with water drops. Hotshot crews continued putting in handline along the southern fire edge of the fire. Crews will continue brushing and clearing containment line about 40 foot wide until the eastern natural barrier is reached. Along the western flank of the fire, little fire movement was experienced. Brushing and clearing for a possible burnout continued there today.

The Snow Camp Lookout and a communication infrastructure are currently wrapped in fire-resistant foil for protection.

Resource advisors, such as botanists, fish and wildlife biologists and archaeologists, work with the Incident Management Team 3 daily to provide options for suppressing the fire while being sensitive to the resources. Natural resources at risk from the Collier Butte Fire include: critical Coho Salmon habitat, Northern Spotted Owl habitat, Marbled Murrelet habitat and wilderness values.



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Also at risk is the spread of Port Orford Cedar root rot disease that is present on the Forest. Resource advisors are providing specific measures to mitigate the spread of this disease by treating potentially contaminated water with bleach. An additional measure to reduce the spread of the root rot disease and invasive plant species to lands in and around the fire include implementing a “weed wash station” to clean vehicles going to and from the Forest.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to drive carefully as firefighter traffic in the area has increased. Residents along Hunter Creek Road, the main access route to the fire, will also see an increase in fire traffic. Driving sight distance on roads in the fire area access is very limited with sharp corners and few turnouts on narrow roads. Helicopter operations are based in Agness.

Smoke from the Collier Butte Fire and northern California wildfires may be visible along the south coast. Detailed air quality information can be found on Oregon Smoke at <http://OregonSmoke.BlogSpot.com>.

**Closures:**

The Curry County Fairgrounds and the Day Use Area behind the fairgrounds are temporarily closed to public access. The facilities are currently being used as an Incident Command Post for the Collier Butte Fire.

The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest has issued a Fire Emergency Road and Area Closure for Public Health and Safety. This closure is effective as of August 7, 2015. Specific information for the closure is available on the Collier Butte Inciweb site listed above. The Order, in its entirety, can be viewed on the Collier Butte Fire Inciweb site (see web address above).

For information on other fires and closures on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest please see the Facebook page listed above.

**Start Date** - August 2, 2015

**Location** - 18 miles east of Gold Beach on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

**Size** – 3,000 acres

**Containment** – 5%

**Cause** - Lightning

**Resources** – 14 Crews, 6 Helicopters , 10 Engines, 2 Dozers, 4 Heavy Equipment, 9 Water Tenders

**Total Personnel** - 591

**Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR):** A TFR is in place over the Collier Butte Fire. Please check the NOTAMs for current information.

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