

Fire Update

Friday, August 14, 2015, PM

Collier Butte Fire – Gold Beach, Oregon

Fire Location: Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

Incident Commander: Doug Johnson

Information Center – 541-247-4447

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Facebook: [U.S. Forest Service-Rogue River - Siskiyou National Forest](#)



Current Situation:

The 5,181-acre Collier Butte Fire is 15 percent contained with 552 personnel working on this wildfire. The fire is burning in the northwest portion of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness and remote Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest System lands on the Gold Beach Ranger District. Fire managers have implemented indirect containment lines to protect values at risk located to the south, west, and north of the fire while reducing firefighter exposure.

Lower temperatures and higher humidity decreased fire activity, but also prevented firefighters from continuing burnout operations. Although mild weather was present today, the weekend forecast calls for warmer, dryer weather with gusty northeast winds in the fire area, often referred to as the Chetco effect.

With the cooler weather and moderated fire behavior, crews constructed approximately one mile of direct line along the southwest flank of the fire. Crews and heavy equipment also prepared the 1376 Forest Road system to the Big Craggies area for burnout operations and will begin lighting as soon as conditions allow. Fireline was constructed along FR 1376 from Mineral Hill to the Tolman Ranch, an alternate south containment line.

Firefighters began mopping up and extinguishing burning materials along the northern fire perimeter to solidify lines after yesterday's burnout operation. Heavy equipment finished fuels reduction work on FR 3680, which will serve as an alternate north flank containment line.

Fire managers continued scouting the east and northeast portion of the fire to evaluate natural barriers and safe options to slow the fire's eastward progression. The fire area features limited access, steep terrain, and an abundance of snags, all of which present safety concerns for firefighters.

Helicopters used a dip tank installed on the banks of the Illinois River in Agness to treat and rinse buckets for water drops as an added safeguard against Port Orford cedar root disease. Resource advisors continued working directly with firefighters to provide protection measures for wilderness values, including habitat for coho salmon, northern spotted owl, and marbled murrelet.

Closures:

Businesses along the south coast and Rogue River remain open. Residents and visitors to Gold Beach, Brookings and nearby communities are encouraged to drive carefully as firefighter traffic in the area has increased. Although the Event Center on the Beach is currently closed to the public, the Curry County Fairgrounds in Gold Beach will host the Fair August 27-30 as planned.

For information on closures on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, please see the Facebook page or the Inciweb page listed above.

