



Pacific Northwest Region
Umatilla National Forest
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News Release

July 16, 2014

Sunflower Fire Grows to 400 acres

PENDLETON, OREGON – The Sunflower Fire, located 10 miles north-northeast of Monument, Oregon has burned 330 acres on the Umatilla National Forest’s Heppner Ranger District and 70 acres on adjacent private lands, according to Ann Niesen, Heppner District Ranger. No structures are threatened at this time.

The fire, a result of the July 13 lightning storm, is burning in steep rocky terrain and timbered strings mixed with open grasslands.

“Tuesday, fire crews conducted burnout operations to secure the south and east flank of the fire. However, late afternoon winds pushed the fire over the line and it made a run down canyon to the south, towards Turner Mountain” said Niesen. The fire is expected to increase in size with continued hot and dry weather conditions forecasted throughout the week.

A Type 2 Incident Management Team has been ordered to take over fire suppression operations and logistical support for the firefighter resources. “Bringing in a team to manage the fire enables local initial attack and other forest resources to return to their home unit to address new fire reports,” said Niesen. Fire Camp will be located at the Morrow County OHV Park. Road and area closures in the vicinity of the fire are pending.

Resources on the fire include: 8 Engines, 2 fallers, 1 water tender, 1 dozer, air craft support and Umatilla National Forest firefighters. A total of 100 people are on site to support the fire.



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(continued)

The Sunflower Fire is one of 17 fire starts reported from recent lightning activity. All other fires have been contained and are in mop up status.

As a reminder, Public Use Restrictions are in effect for building of campfires which include: Campfires are required to be in pits surrounded by dirt, rock or commercial rings, with a five feet cleared area around the edge of the pit in areas not conducive to rapid fire spread. Additional restrictions involving the use of chainsaws, smoking and travel will go into effect Saturday, July 19, 2014.

For more information, please contact Umatilla National Forest Public Affairs Officer Joani Bosworth at 541-278-3722, or visit our website at www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla/.

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