



## UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST Ukiah Complex Fire Update

Friday, August 17, 2007

Contact: Tom Lavagnino

Telephone: 541 427-3079

Incident Command Post located at the Sports Park in Ukiah, OR

---

Crews made substantial progress yesterday in identifying and taking suppression action on the 29 lightning-caused fires that started in what is now called the Ukiah Complex, around the central Oregon town of Ukiah.

The fires have consumed 5,456 acres and threatened a few homes and cabins near State Highway 244 east of Ukiah. Highway 244 and other Forest Service roads were closed for portions of yesterday because of smoke and fire-related traffic. No structures have been lost and no injuries have been reported as a result of the fires. No containment date has been identified.

One of the largest of the new fires, named the Otter Creek Fire, has burned more than 1,200 acres south of the North Fork John Day River. The Trout Meadows fire is 95 percent contained.

Five hundred forty six people are assigned to the Ukiah Complex and Trout Meadows. Additional crews and equipment have been ordered along with another interagency incident management team that will assume suppression responsibilities for the Otter Creek Fire. Twenty crews, two helicopter, seven engines and ten dozers are working to establish lines around the fires.

Hunter and backpackers are reminded that all fires are prohibited in the forest. Various trails, campground and backcountry roads are closed as the result of the fire and may remain closed when bow hunting season opens August 25.

These fires are burning on Umatilla National Forest and private lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry. A task group from Umatilla County has been brought in to provide structure protection.

An infra-red flight was conducted last night which identified any hot spot that may have been overlooked in the initial assessment of the 29 reported lightning-caused fires. The valley around Ukiah has been filled with dense smoke at times, especially in the morning when winds are light. New fires may be discovered during the next few days and fire managers will be alert for any fire report so that they may take quick and decisive action before a small fire becomes large.