Williams Flats and Lundstrom Butte Fires Update
Northwest Interagency Incident Management Team 8, Incident Commander: Doug Johnson
August 14, 2019 - 9:00 A.M.

Fire Information: (509) 634-7341 (8:00 am to 9:00 pm); 2019.williamsflats@firenet.gov
Facebook Pages – Colville Tribal Broadcast, News and Information
Williams Flats Fire

This will be the last update from the Northwest Incident Management Team 8 (NWIMT8), Incident Commander Doug Johnson. NE Washington Team 2, Incident Commander Tim Love, will assume management of the fire tomorrow at 6:00 am. NWIMT8 would like to take this opportunity to say “thank you” to the Colville Confederated Tribes, communities, cooperators, agency staff, and firefighters for the unwavering support during our management of the Williams Flats Fire.

Williams Flats Fire
Acreage: 45,359
Containment: 65%
Current Fire Information:
A containment line has been constructed completely around the fire perimeter. Firefighting resources will work to improve and secure the lines. A containment line is considered secure when, i.e., a large wind event blew over the fire area, no embers would blow across the line and start a fire. Patrol of secured lines will be ongoing. Back hauling of firefighting equipment to the command post is underway. Equipment will be packed and returned to the local fire cache to be made ready for future use. Tribal cultural resource monitoring is on-going along constructed containment lines. Approval must be provided before suppression repairs can begin. Suppression repair includes pulling back dozer line berms, installing waterbars to divert rain run-off, and pulling woody debris back onto the bare mineral soil. Road repairs from the flash flooding event has been completed to a level allowing firefighters back onto all areas of the fires. Additional work will be required in the future.
Initial attack firefighting resources are available to respond to any new fire starts. After the recent heavy rains the response is expected to be minimal.

The Spokane Tribal Police have provided a rescue boat for emergency evacuation of injured firefighters.

Lundstrom Butte Fire
Acreage: 10 – Final
Containment: 100%
Current Fire Information: The fire is in patrol status.

Resources: Total personnel assigned –787: 5-type 1 hand crews, 5-type 2, 6 type 2 IA hand crews, 1- medium helicopters, 1-light helicopter, 4-ambulances, 28-engines, 12-dozers, 1-masticator, 4-skidgenes, and 13-water tenders.

Weather: Today’s weather will be warmer with lower humidity compared to yesterday. Highs will range around 78-88° with the highest temperatures below 2000 ft. Relative humidity will be from 25 -35%. Winds will be south to southeast 5-10 mph.

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Air Quality: For the latest information regarding smoke and air quality see https://wasmoke.blogspot.com

Evacuations and Closures:
Evacuation notices issued for homes near the Williams Flats Fire by the Colville Tribes Emergency Services and the Ferry County Sheriff’s Office have been revised as follows:
Level 1:

- Areas south of Four Corners,
- On or near the shoreline of Lake Roosevelt along the Ninemile-Hellgate Road.

The Kuehne Road area is not under any evacuation orders however, due to heavy fire traffic in the area, Kuehne Road access is restricted to residents and landowners only.

Traffic restrictions from traffic control points remain in effect; residents of the area will be allowed past the traffic control checkpoints to return to their homes. Non-residents of the restricted areas will be turned away to minimize traffic through active firefighting areas.

In order to promote public safety, the Colville Tribes Emergency Services has instituted several road closures with limited entry for the Williams Flats Fire area. The restrictions will allow firefighters to work safely along Silver Creek Road and elsewhere in advance of the fire. Traffic control points are being established at:

- The junction of Silver Creek Road and Ninemile-Hellgate Road, also known as the “Four Corners”;
- The junction of Olds Creek Road and the Ninemile-Frosty Meadows Road; and
- The junction of Silver Creek Road and Kuehne Road.

Only residents will be allowed through the control points to their residences within the affected areas. If the fire approaches Silver Creek Road, or if smoke restricts visibility to the point that firefighters are at risk, only fire and other emergency vehicles will be allowed through the traffic control points.

Helicopters may be dipping from nearby Lake Roosevelt for suppression efforts and need space to work. The public is asked to avoid these aircraft activity areas on the water. The area is being patrolled by the the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Law Enforcement.

The Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) around the Williams Flats and Lundstrom Fires will be removed this evening.