

# WHITMORE FIRE UPDATE

## NORTHWEST INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM 12

**Incident Commander: Bobby Shindelar**

**August 17, 2021**

The Whitmore Fire is located on the Colville Reservation south of Omak Lake and west of Nespelem, WA. The Incident Command Post at Nespelem Community Center is closed to all but essential personnel to help ensure the health and safety of community members and firefighters.

Temperatures will continue to trend lower today, with highs only in the 70s to mid-80s across the fire area. Winds shifted around to northerly last night and will be strong and gusty for most of the day. There is a slight chance of light showers and thunderstorms this afternoon.

## Operations

Due to the sustained effort by crews working this fire, containment increased to 60% and the fire did not grow at all on Monday. Yesterday, firefighters and an engine secured structures at the Mount Whitmore Lookout, mopping up the area as heat sources remained creeping and smoldering nearby. Fire crews wrapped the historic Lookout with structure wrap, using a material similar to what is used for emergency fire shelters to protect from radiant heat and burning embers. Firefighters continued their work systematically gridding along the northern fire perimeter, looking for smoke and heat sources under the trees and mopping up 25 to 50 feet in from the fireline. In the Kartar Valley, fire crews mapped and identified future suppression repair needs and knocked down berms created while fighting the fire to minimize future erosion potential.

Patrol and mop-up is ongoing today on the northern and eastern portions of the fire as firefighters work to secure the fire perimeter from any remaining smoldering heat sources close to the fireline. Decreasing activity on the Whitmore Fire requires fewer resources, allowing excess equipment and crews to be demobilized to assist on other fires in the region.

## Evacuations

**Today, all Level 2 evacuations on the Whitmore Fire have been reduced to Level 1 evacuations.** The Columbia River Road corridor, Kartar Valley, Colville Agency, the community of Nespelem, and the SR155 corridor from Colville Agency north up to the Mission are now all in a level 1 evacuation status. Call Tribal Police at (509) 634-2472 with all evacuation questions.

## Road Closures

Coyote Creek Road remains closed.



**SIZE: 58,276 acres**

**CONTAINMENT: 60%**

**PERSONNEL: 297**

**CAUSE: Lightning**

**RESOURCES:**

**Hand Crews: 5**

**Engines: 20**

**Dozers: 3**

**Water Tenders: 17**

**Helicopters: 1**

**Fixed Wing: 1**

**FIRE INFORMATION:**

**509-557-0063**

**2021.whitmore@firenet.gov**

**Facebook: @cwafireinfo**

**Twitter: @CWAFireInfo**

**INCIWEB:**

**<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7776/>**

**Air quality information:**

**<https://wasmoke.blogspot.com/p/local-outlooks.html?m=1>**

