



Mike Ciraulo, Incident Commander

## KETTLE COMPLEX FIRE UPDATE

Friday, September 18, 2015 9:00 AM

**FIRE INFORMATION: 509-724-0040**

website: [inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4536](http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4536)

email: [stickpinfireinfo@gmail.com](mailto:stickpinfireinfo@gmail.com)

facebook: [tinyurl.com/kettlecplxfire](https://www.facebook.com/tinyurl.com/kettlecplxfire)

### SUMMARY

<b>Stickpin</b>	53,925 acres; 69% contained
<b>Graves Mtn.</b>	8,593 acres; 79% contained
<b>Renner</b>	13,799 acres; 79% contained
<b>Total</b>	76,317 acres; 72% contained

**Total Personnel:** 972

**Committed Resources:** 20 Crews, 36 Engines,  
1 Helicopter, 10 Dozers, 15 Water Tenders

**Incident Summary:** The Kettle Complex includes three fires – the Stickpin, Renner and Graves Mountain fires – burning south of the Canadian border, west of Highway 395, north of State Route 20 and east of Highway 21.

**Operations:** In addition to continued suppression and repair operations, crews have started to evaluate, repair, and clear closed roads in the Kettle Complex fire area. *All closures in the Kettle Complex fire area are still in effect at this time;* however, land managers are currently discussing when select roads might be opened to public access.

**Suppression Repair:** The cool, moist weather has been beneficial to suppression efforts but has introduced a new challenge for repair operations: recent rain, snow and sleet over the fire area have made roads extremely slick and soft. Repair work with heavy equipment has become a delicate balance of repairing the roads without causing further damage. Crews strive to leave the forest roads and control lines in the best possible shape. Roads must be repaired before they can be opened to public traffic. Although excellent progress is being made on repair operations, some operations requiring the use of heavy equipment will have to wait for drier weather in order to avoid causing additional damage.

**Fire Prevention:** As the weather cools and fire use restrictions are eased, please remember the region is still dry and new fire starts are still occurring. Forest users are urged to practice sound fire prevention techniques when utilizing warming fires when and where allowed (check with your local land managing agency before building a fire). Always keep your fire small and well contained using nonflammable barriers such as steel fire rings or rock outcroppings where permitted. Clear the area around your fire of all flammable materials down to mineral soil. Always have a shovel and water close by and never leave a fire unattended, not even for a few minutes. For more information, visit [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org).

**Highway Safety:** Logging activity continues on private and state forestlands affected by the fire. Log trucks are using Deer Creek-Boulder Creek Road and Highway 395. Drivers in the area should expect increased logging traffic as well as fire equipment and are urged to use caution.

**Closures/Restrictions:** Deer Creek-Boulder Creek Road is open, but all connecting US Forest Service roads are closed to non-fire traffic. Highway 21 is open. For firewood cutting, please call Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) at 509-684-7474 or the Colville National Forest at 509-684-7000 to see if cutting is allowed in your area or for permitting. Regardless of whether cutting is allowed, burned areas in the Colville National Forest remain closed to non-fire traffic until further notice.

**Cooperating Agencies:** USDA Forest Service Colville National Forest, Washington Department of Natural Resources Northeast Region, USDI Bureau of Land Management, Ferry County Fire District 3 and 13, Stevens County Fire District 8, Curlew Fire Department, Ferry County Sheriff.