



Heatwave Complex

This complex of fires is comprised of twelve lightning-ignited wildland fires that were started in June and July, 2009. Olympic National Park is currently managing these fires for resource benefits.

Fire managers are monitoring the fires as they progress naturally. These slow-moving fires are creating a healthy mosaic of burned and unburned forest. Wildlife will benefit from increased habitat diversity.

These fires are also creating natural fuel breaks which will help slow the intensity and spread of large, intense wildfires in the future.

The fires are burning in a variety of vegetation. Buckinghorse Fire and Knife Fire are mostly in

sub-alpine fir forests. Constance Fire and 10-Mile Fire are in Douglas-fir and mountain hemlock forests, with a mixed understory.

When the Constance Fire spread to neighboring Olympic National Forest, fire managers employed

confinement strategies to limit the fire's growth to the east.

By mid-August, fire activity diminished and total acreage for all 12 fires was 1,398 acres. Fires continue to be monitored on the ground and by aircraft. Fire activity will continue until the heavy rains of fall.

Fire managers are trained to use the right response, at the right time, for the right reasons.

Managing wildland fire requires land managers to balance risks and benefits in an ever-changing environment.



A portable sprinkler system protects the Dosewallips Ranger Station, near the Constance Fire.



Steep, rocky terrain limits fire growth, but increases the safety hazards for firefighters working on the ground.



A fire ecologist measures fire intensity, spread and flame lengths.



Fire growth is primarily due to burning material that rolls downhill.

These fires are burning in remote wilderness, where they pose no immediate threat to life, safety or property.