



Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest
Naches Ranger District

Meeks Table Fire

Morning Update 9 a.m.
Monday, September 21, 2015



WIIMT #4
Brian Gales, Incident Commander
Larry Nickey, Deputy IC
Patrick Halford, IC Trainee

<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4609/>

Fire Information
Naches Ranger District
(509) 653-1401 8 am to 4 pm

<http://wa-imt4.ordvac.com/>

Smaller number of firefighters; back to the usual sources for Fire Information

Nile, Wash. – Due to increases in fire containment and the reduction in threat to communities and natural resources, the number of firefighters working on the Meeks Table Fire is getting smaller. Approximately 100 firefighters will continue to be engaged in mop up, patrol and repairing any damage caused by suppression activities, under the leadership of Jason Emhoff incident commander and Hayley Grant incident commander trainee. The fire is not expected to grow.

The fire is 1,183 acres and 60% contained. The 6-acre drop in size since yesterday is due to a slight change in how one line was mapped. The southern edge (40% of the perimeter) will not be contained with constructed firelines. It is north of Rattlesnake Creek below steep cliffs. It continues to be patrolled.

Smoke will continue to rise from within the Meeks Table Fire containment area as interior fuels continue to be consumed. This will likely be the case until significant rain or snowfall completely extinguishes the fire.

Because the threat of the fire spreading and the volume of fire fighter traffic have decreased, the road closures in the vicinity of the Meeks Table Fire have been reduced. The immediate vicinity of the fire and roads that access it remain hazardous and are closed to everyone except firefighters and law enforcement:

- Forest Road (FR)1601 and all forest roads and motorized use trails connecting to it from the junction of the 232 spur road to the terminus of the 1601 are closed.
- FR1500 at the east Forest Boundary to the junction of FR1503 and to the terminus of FR1502, including all forest spur roads connecting to the 1500 and 1502 between these points are closed.

The remainder of the FR1600 and FR 1500 systems are open.

Campfire restrictions on the Naches Ranger District have not changed.

Meeks Table Fire Information will continue to be available from the Naches Ranger District 509 653-1401. The fire situation is expected to remain stable, without significant changes.

The inciweb site <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4609/> will remain active for several months and will be updated if the situation changes.

Quick Facts:

Fire Size: 1,183 acres

Location: Thirty miles northwest of Yakima, Wash. Five miles west of Hwy 410 at Nile, Wash.

Fire Start Date: 9/12/15

Cause: Human. Investigation continues.

Hazards: Steep terrain, Dangerous snags, Helicopter operations, Poor access on narrow roads

Values at Risk: Community of Nile, Wash., recreational cabins, cultural resources, fish and wildlife habitat, timber resources

Containment: 60%

Resources:

3 Crews
5 Engines
3 Water tenders
1 Chipper
1 Grader

Personnel: approx. 100

Closures: Forest Roads 1600 system. Forest Road 1500 system from eastern National Forest Boundary to Bethel Ridge / Road 199. Roads are closed to vehicle and foot traffic.

Many road closures lifted as of September 21. Some closures remain in effect.

Fire Information source changing to Naches Ranger District 508 653-1401 starting September 21, 2015.