



RED FIRE DAILY UPDATE

Saturday, September 7, 2024

541-208-1766

2024_red@firenet.gov

<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/ordef-red-fire;>

facebook.com/2024RedFire



Size: 1,289 acres **Location:** 5 miles west of Crescent Lake Junction, OR **County:** Klamath
Start Date: July 17, 2024 **Cause:** Lightning **Containment:** 0% **Total Personnel:** 97

Activities – There was increased fire activity yesterday due to critical fire weather conditions and instability from a storm cell that moved over the area in the early evening. An overnight infrared flight mapped the fire at 1,289 acres. The fire is backing downslope into the vicinity of the Whitefish Creek Trail. Today, firefighters will continue to monitor and secure the area along the trail. Structure protection equipment remains in place along Crescent Lake. The Red Fire and Willamette Complex Fires - South incident management teams and forest leadership for the Deschutes and Willamette National Forests are coordinating, and we are monitoring the nearby 208 Fire to the west of the Cascade crest.

Strategy – A full suppression strategy is being implemented utilizing indirect tactics, shaded fuel breaks, structure protection equipment, trails, and hose lays. When the fire started, an assessment by the initial attack incident commander, local fire managers and forest staff determined the risk to responders was too great to continue with direct attack due to a lack of escape routes and safety zones, snag hazards, and firefighter safety issues in the remote location. Firefighters are continually reevaluating the safest, most effective suppression strategy based on changing weather, fuel conditions, and fire behavior. Firefighter and public safety remain the incident management team's highest priority in managing this fire.

Closures – To provide for the safety of firefighters, equipment operators, and the public, the Deschutes National Forest emergency closure around Crescent Lake and in the Diamond Peak Wilderness is still in effect. *Forest Service Road 60 is closed, and road guards have been posted for public safety.* The emergency closure is being reevaluated daily as conditions continue to change. More closure information is available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/deschutes/alerts-notice/?aid=89091>.

The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) is closed from north of Windigo Pass (Mile 1883.5) to Highway 58 (Mile 1909.5). The previous PCT detour around the fire has been decommissioned as of noon on September 4. Currently there is not a detour around the closure. A map displaying the PCT closure can be viewed on the Pacific Crest Trail Association's (PCTA) website at: <https://closures.pcta.org/closure/Mr02bIDvEwX1SJ9h1H49>.

The 2024 season for commercially harvesting Matsutake mushrooms opened for the Deschutes National Forest is open and will close November 4, 2024. The emergency fire closure impacts certain harvesting locations.

Incident Weather, Fire Behavior, and Smoke – Temperatures and relative humidity will again reach critical values today. Temperatures will be 80 to 85 degrees and relative humidity is forecasted to drop below 20% during the day. There is a threat of thundershowers again this afternoon with limited rainfall and gusty outflow winds. As warm and dry weather prevails, vegetation moisture will continue to drop making more fuel available and increasing surface fire activity. Active surface fire spread can be expected. Lower temperatures and high relative humidity are expected tomorrow with a cooling trend beginning on Monday.

Evacuations – The *WILDFIRE! Level 1 – BE READY to Evacuate* notice issued by Klamath County Emergency Management for Crescent Lake, Odell Lake, and Crescent Junction areas remains in effect (INCENDIO FORESTAL! Nivel 1 - ESTÉ PREPARADO para evacuar de las siguientes zonas: Crescent Lake, Odell Lake, Crescent Junction). Visit www.klamathcounty.org/300/emergency-management for more information or to sign up for alerts.

Fire Restrictions – Stage 2 Public Use Fire Restrictions – which prohibit open fires, including in developed campgrounds – remain in effect for the Deschutes National Forest. The Industrial Fire Precaution Level is currently Level III "Partial Shutdown." Visit fs.usda.gov/detail/deschutes/home/?cid=stelpdb5297376 for more information.