



Klamath National Forest



Forest Service News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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River Complex Fire Update

Tuesday August 31, 2021

Fire Statistics: Total complex 106,132 acres, 23% containment. Haypress 68,917 acres. Summer 30,161 acres. Cronan 5,918 acres. The infrared mapping was incomplete due to sensor malfunction. Actual fire growth will be updated today when new mapping is completed.

Etna, CA Firefighters are making good progress in areas across the Cronan and Haypress fires. Today aircraft will assist with firefighting operations and evaluation as visibility allows. Crews will also utilize Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) to further determine fire growth and interior activity across the River Complex.

Safety Message- Please prepare for the upcoming holiday weekend and be aware of forest and road closures. Fire crews and heavy equipment will be on the roads, so please drive with extra care for your personal safety and the safety of the firefighters.

Fire Summary:

Haypress: Haypress continues to be a priority. Aircraft will focus in the Coffee Creek area on the east and southeast sides. Fire crews are monitoring activity as the fire burns into the 2014 Coffee Fire burn scar which generally contributes to decreased fire activity. In the Coffee Creek/Three Sisters Gulch area, the fire will continue to actively back, flank and run uphill to the East and South at moderate to rapid rates of spread, where evacuation orders remain in place. Contained lines along Cecilville/Callahan Road will continue to smolder/smoke and the fire will continue to actively back to the road. The Parker spot fire will remain active with the potential to grow back toward the Haypress Fire.

Summer Fire: Areas with intense heat on the west end will continue to grow into Plummer creek and will also back towards the Cecilville road at slow to moderate rates of spread. The south end of the Summer fire has many areas of intense heat that will continue to spread. High elevation barriers such as rock systems and change of vegetation will limit fire growth. The Cecilville Road area continues to be a priority.

Cronan Fire: Firefighters have made good progress on the fire. Crews will work to complete missions today and can possibly move to assist other areas. Mop-up and patrolling will continue as needed.

Weather: A low pressure front brought lower temperatures. There will be light westerly marine winds promoting higher relative humidity this morning, relative humidity will still fall to near 15% this afternoon. Temperatures will fall slightly and remain steady throughout the week and terrain driven, with light easterly winds overnight.

Today:

- Construct and improve fire line in all divisions where conditions allow, and personnel and equipment are available.
- Continue Point Protection in the communities of Coffee Creek, Summerville, and Cecilville
- Scout and continue structure protection to the south and east
- Insert resources and construct direct fire line on the spot fire in the Parker Meadow to mitigate threat to the Hwy-3 and Trinity Center areas.

Resources:

- 771 Personnel, 11 crews, 9 Helicopters, 41 Engines, 19 Dozers, 27 Water Tenders, 9 Masticators, 2 Skid-Steers, 3 packstrings.

Evacuations:

Evacuation Order: Cecilville, Summerville, Petersburg, and Coffee Creek Road Past Sugar Pine Trailhead in Trinity County.

Evacuation Warning: Sawyers Bar, Coffee Creek, Trinity Center

For specific information regarding evacuations, please visit <https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/emergencyservices> or <https://www.trinitycounty.org/OES>

*An evacuation **order** means there is an immediate threat to life and is a lawful order to leave immediately. An evacuation **warning** means there is a potential threat to life or property. Those who require additional time to evacuate and those with pets and livestock should leave now.*

Road Closures: Trinity County has issued a hard closure of Coffee Creek Road at North Fork Trailhead west of Hwy 3. The Callahan-Cecilville Road is closed from approximately one mile west of the community of Callahan to Cecilville. The Sawyers Bar Road is closed from Forks of Salmon to Forest Road 40N51.

Forest Closures: The following National Forests are under Emergency Forest Closure, effective from August 22, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. through September 6, 2021, at 11:59 p.m.: Klamath National Forest, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Six Rivers National Forest, Modoc National Forest, Tahoe National Forest, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Plumas National Forest, Mendocino National Forest, and Lassen National Forest.

For more information, please visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/>

Smoke Report: <https://wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlooks/NorthernCalifornia>

For additional information, call the River Complex Fire information line at (707) 596-6075 or go to the InciWeb page at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7760/>