



Forest Service News Release

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Suiattle River, Boulder Lake and Lake Toketie Fires report growth, but cooler weather continues to aid the firefighting effort

Everett, WA, Sept. 5, 2022—

The Suiattle River Fire, which remains the fire suppression priority, has received an updated estimate of 70 acres. Boulder Lake and Lake Toketie Fires have been updated to 985 acres and 265 acres, respectively. Although larger, those fires are east of the Suiattle River Fire and much further from values at risk such as private property, cultural resources, and recreation facilities. Cooler weather and moisture continued to moderate fire activity yesterday and helicopter flights were not necessary to keep the fire in check. Most of the fire growth occurred prior to yesterday, before improved tracking data was available.

Yesterday the local Forest Service unit transitioned management of the fires over to Incident Management Team Idaho Team 1 but continue to support the firefighting effort. Firefighters from Wyoming and Yakima, Washington staffed the Suiattle River Road (Forest Road 26) yesterday, assessing private property, state lands, and recreation facilities such as Suiattle Guard Station and Buck Creek Campground for protection should the fire move in their direction.

Today, crews will conduct snagging (removal of dead trees and limbs to reduce risk of fire spread) and light brushing along the Suiattle River Road to improve the road's ability to serve as a containment line. The Fire has not moved outside of the "box" established by fire managers: keep the fire north of Suiattle River Road, east of Grade Creek Road (Forest Road 2640), and west of Buck Creek.

Evacuations: Level 1 "Be Ready" Evacuation Notice in place for the Lower Suiattle Valley, north of the Suiattle River.

Closures: The Suiattle River Road (Forest Road 26) remains closed at the 10.5 mile marker. Forest Road 25 is not closed. Buck Creek Campground and multiple trails in the area remain closed: Boulder Lake; Huckleberry Mountain; Buck Creek, Green Mountain; Downey Creek; Suiattle; Sulphur Creek; Sulphur Mountain. The closure order map is posted at www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/mbs/alerts-notice.

Smoke: Air quality in the Darrington area has returned to normal. More information at: wasmoke.blogspot.com/

Fire Information Phone: 503-307-7002

Closures: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/mbs/alerts-notice>

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