



Mt Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

## Forest Service News Release

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### Warm, dry weather spurs lightning-caused fires; Suiattle River Fire Closures on Darrington Ranger District

Everett, WA, Sept. 2, 2022—

Heavy helicopter support will continue today on the Suiattle River Fire, providing bucket drops. The Suiattle River Fire grew by less than an acre yesterday and is currently holding at about five acres. Weather and fire activity are expected to be similar to yesterday.

The fire's location on steep, inaccessible slopes in old growth forest makes it unsafe for firefighters to engage directly. Fire managers plan to use available ground resources to prepare the Suiattle River Road (Forest Road 26) to serve as a confinement line, should the fire move in that direction. They will seek to keep the fire north of the 26 Road, as well as east of Forest Road 2640 and west of Buck Creek.

Two other lightning-caused fires to the east remain active. The Boulder Lake Fire is estimated at around 100 acres and Lake Toketie Fire at 90. Those fires will continue to be monitored closely and if necessary, firefighters will look for opportunities to engage safely. The Suiattle River Fire remains the priority because of its proximity to private property and other values. Due to the challenging terrain, the fire suppression strategy will continue to be focus on air support, with the aid of a 10-person fire crew on the ground providing reconnaissance. The Suiattle River Road remains closed at the 10.5 mile marker, along with Buck Creek Campground and multiple trails in the area. An Incident Management Team will arrive this weekend to take over management of fire suppression efforts.

**Evacuations:** None.

**Closures:** Suiattle River Road (Forest Road 26); Buck Creek Campground remain closed; the following Trails also remain closed: Boulder Lake; Huckleberry Mountain; Buck Creek, Green Mountain; Downey Creek; Suiattle; Sulphur Creek; Sulphur Mountain. The closure went into effect September 1, 2022 and will remain in place until rescinded: [www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/mbs/alerts-notice](https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/mbs/alerts-notice).

**Smoke:** Air quality will likely remain smoky today. More information on air quality at: [wasmoke.blogspot.com/](https://wasmoke.blogspot.com/)

**Fire Information Phone:** 503-307-7002

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

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