

## Boulder Fire Update – July 16, 2023

Mt. Hood National Forest

Fire Information 541-215-6735 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Email: [2023.boulder@firenet.gov](mailto:2023.boulder@firenet.gov) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/mthoodnf/](https://www.facebook.com/mthoodnf/)

Inciweb: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/ormhf-boulder-fire>

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**Resources:** 408 Total Personnel | 8 Hand Crews | 9 Engines | 4 Heavy Equipment | 10 Water Tenders  
| 1 Fixed-Wing Aircraft | 6 Helicopters

**(Dufur, OR)** The Boulder Fire started on July 8 near Boulder Lake Trailhead 26 miles southwest of Dufur in the Mt. Hood National Forest Barlow Ranger District. The fire is burning in dead and down debris located in steep, rugged and alpine-like terrain. An overnight infrared flight confirmed that 233 acres have burned. The percentage of containment has increased to 30%. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. A temporary flight restriction remains in place over the fire. Public and firefighter safety are the highest priorities on the Boulder Fire.

Despite Saturday's high temperatures, fire activity was minimal though crews observed isolated single tree torching within the fire's interior where scattered pockets of unburned fuels remain. The unmanned aerial system (UAS) equipped with heat-sensing equipment flew over the fire area in search of hot spots, and none were detected. The percentage of containment doubled to 30% as firefighters completed line along the fire's western flank. Work to strengthen containment lines continued to the north, south and east sides of the fire. In addition, masticating and grading was underway as crews improved access north to Grasshopper Point along the 4860 Road. Efforts were interrupted several times when recreationalists, who apparently missed notices of area and road closures, appeared near where crews were working.

Today, the UAS is flying over the area again. Work continues as firefighters further strengthen containment lines all around the fire. Crews are pushing toward the fire's center, creating cool and fuels-free ground 100 feet inside the perimeter.

**Weather:** Temperatures are expected to be slightly lower on Sunday than Saturday and humidity, slightly higher. A cold front is forecasted to push in today, bringing gusty winds during the evening hours and into Monday.

**Closures and Restrictions:** Many of the roadways, campgrounds and trails north and east of Forest Road 48 in the Barlow Ranger District are closed. Due to the high fire danger, open fire and target shooting restrictions have been implemented. For more information or to view the full closure order, visit the Forest webpage at [www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/mthood/alerts-notice](http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/mthood/alerts-notice).

**Evacuations:** Boulder Lake Campground, Little Boulder Lake, Bonney Meadows Campground, Badger Lake Campground, Camp Windy, and Post Camp Campground are under a Level 3 – Go Now evacuation. Evacuation levels are Level 1 – Be Ready to Evacuate, Level 2 – Be Set to Evacuate, and Level 3 – Go Now. More information is available from the Wasco County Sheriff's Office at [www.facebook.com/WascoCountySheriff](https://www.facebook.com/WascoCountySheriff).

**Public Safety:** Firefighters and heavy equipment continue to work on and around the area roadways, including Forest Road 48. Firefighters are using the Rock Creek OHV as a staging area. Drivers can help keep firefighters and visitors safe by avoiding these areas. Recreationalists planning to use trails and roadways must check closures and restrictions before entering the forest; for everyone's safety, the public is asked to stay clear of all fire suppression operations.

**Smoke:** Currently, there are no significant smoke impacts from the Boulder Fire. For air quality updates, visit [www.oregonsmoke.org](http://www.oregonsmoke.org) or [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov).

