

Klamath National Forest Butte Valley National Grassland

Forest Service News Release

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Klamath National Forest Fire Activity Update – August 27, 2023

Yreka, Calif. – An inversion layer from smoky conditions will persist across the Klamath National Forest in the coming days. Smoke can help moderate burning conditions, but also limits the visibility across the region. The heavy smoke in many areas makes it challenging to identify and safely access newly reported wildfires. Since the last report, three additional fires not associated with the Happy Camp Complex have been called out, and no new fires have been reported; however, new fires from recent lightning activity could still be identified in the coming days.

Fire officials have declared the following fires out. They will no longer be reported on: Box Fire, Browns Fire, and Grizzley Fire.

Happy Camp/Oak Knoll District:

- The Red Fire has been reported south of Red Hill. To date, crews have been unable to locate the fire but will continue searching.
- The Vann Fire has been reported three miles west of Elbow Springs in the Vann Creek Drainage. To date, crews have been unable to locate the fire but will continue searching.
- The Dillon Fire is northwest of the North Fork of Dillon Creek. The acreage is unknown. Helirappelers were unable to access the fire yesterday due to heavy smoke from the Elliot Fire. Fire officials are working to identify options to safely access the fire.
- The Donkey Fire is near Pony Peak and adjacent to the Elliot Fire. The acreage is unknown due to smoky conditions. Fire officials are working to identify options to safely access the fire due to its proximity to the Elliot Fire.
- The Berry Fire near Huckleberry Mountain is approximately 0.2 acres. The fire is controlled and in patrol status.
- The Capitan Fire near Capitan Mountain is approximately 2 acres. The fire is controlled and in patrol status.
- The Titus Fire in the Marble Mountain Wilderness south of Norcross Campground is approximately 64 acres. Smokejumpers will be inserted into this fire today to assist with implementing a confine and contain strategy. The fire is in difficult to reach terrain with low probability of continuing to spread due to natural barriers, sparse fuels, and previous burn scars. Aviation resources are being used as needed to keep the fire in its current footprint.

Salmon/Scott River Ranger District:

• No active fires to report.

Goosenest Ranger District:

• No active fires to report.

Evacuation Orders and Warnings: Evacuation orders and warnings remain in effect. Monitor CodeRED and the Siskiyou County Sheriff Facebook Page for current information.

Forest Closures: The Klamath National Forest has issued an emergency closure order for two portions of the forest:

• Happy Camp Ranger District Closure Location: The closure order extends from Happy Camp south to the Marble Mountain Wilderness boundary at Norcross Recreation Area. The closure continues west along the edge of the Marble Mountain Wilderness to the Siskiyou Wilderness boundary. From there, the closure runs north along the Siskiyou Wilderness, down Clear Creek to Highway 96, and then north back to Happy Camp near Curly Jack Campground. Happy Camp District Closure Map:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1132183.pdf

• **Oak Knoll and Scott River Ranger Districts Closure Area:** The closure order is generally northwest of Scott Valley and includes some of the Marble Mountain Wilderness near Lover's Camp. From the Wilderness boundary, the closure continues along Grider Creek north to Seiad Valley. The closure extends northeast of Seiad Valley to areas north of the Klamath River. Oak Knoll and Scott River Districts Closure Map: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1132187.pdf

The Pacific Crest Trail: The Pacific Crest Trail is closed between the Shelly Fork Junction and Seiad as part of an area closure under Forest Order 05-05-23-07. It is suggested that northbound through-hikers exit the trail at Etna Summit and resume northward travel from Seiad.

Highway 96 is open with one-way traffic control. This is subject to change based on current fire conditions. Visit <u>quickmap.dot.ca.gov</u> for the most up-to-date information on road closures.

Information on Klamath National Forest fires not part of the Happy Camp Complex can be found at: <u>https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/caknf-2023-klamath-national-forest-august-lightning-fires</u>

Information on the Happy Camp Complex can be found at: <u>https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information//caknf-2023-happy-camp-complex-klamath-nf</u>

Fire Restrictions: Full descriptions of restrictions and closures are available at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/klamath/alerts-notices

Please obey any evacuation Orders and Warnings that have been issued

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The Klamath National Forest & Butte Valley National Grassland cover 1,700,000 acres located in Siskiyou County, California and Jackson County, Oregon. Butte Valley National Grassland is the newest National Grassland and the only one in California. The forest is headquartered in Yreka, CA, and maintains ranger stations in the California communities of Macdoel, Happy Camp, and Fort Jones. More information is available at <u>www.fs.usda.gov/klamath</u>.

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