



Six Rivers National Forest



## Forest Service News Release



### Public Information

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## Fire Update Smith River Complex A.M. 8/23

**Gasquet, Calif., August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023** —A community meeting will be held tonight at the Del Norte County Fairgrounds at 6:00 pm. This community meeting will be streamed live via Six Rivers National Forest Facebook page and simulcast on KCRE 97.6.

The Smith River Complex is now approximately 47,140 acres with zero percent containment. The Smith River Complex had more favorable weather conditions as a cooler and more humid airmass helped push marine air over the fire at all elevations yesterday. Conditions gradually warmed and dried throughout the day with highs reaching the low to mid 70s. Substantial clearing with reduced fire activity allowed for blue skies along the western portion of the complex. Firefighters took advantage of the more favorable conditions and applied aerial delivered retardant from a robust fleet of Very Large Air Tankers (VLATS). An estimated 300,000 gallons were delivered throughout the day by 5 VLATS. These drops were used to reinforce the work occurring by ground crews along the 305/Rowdy Creek Road on the western perimeter. Drops were also placed adjacent to the dozer lines created at the base of Stony Creek, near the 18N10 road that will be used to halt the southern progression of the Kelly fire as it nears the community of Gasquet.

An Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) equipped with infrared cameras arrived at the incident yesterday, along with additional crews, engines, and equipment. The UAS model will be used to provide accurate perimeters to the ground crews.

Today is expected to be slightly warmer and dryer, with the overnight winds forecasted to be breezy from a northeasterly direction. The number of resources working overnight, including a fixed wing airplane with infrared cameras to coordinate with the ground crews, will be increased for this operation period to account for the anticipated adverse overnight conditions.

### Evacuations

All evacuation orders are issued by the Del Norte County Sheriff's Office. If you are in the Del Norte County, area please sign up for their [Community Alert System](#) to receive emergency notifications. Evacuation levels as of 8:00 am today August 21st are as follows:

**Level 3 "Go Now":** *Low Divide at Highway 197 from mile marker 1 to mile marker 13.* Patrick Creek, Little Jones Creek, Copper Creek Drainage, Coon Creek/ 16n19 17n07, Washington Flat, Pioneer Road, Panther Flat Campground Area, all communities between Slant Bridge Road north to the Oregon Border along Highway 199, French Hill Road.

**Level 2 "Be Set":** High Divide, Rowdy Creek, Big Flat/Rock Creek

**Level 1 "Be Ready":** Hiouchi from Slant Bridge to the east end of North Bank Road

## **Closures**

Highway 197 from mile marker 1 to mile marker 13.

South Fork Road is open to **Residents only**. Resident must provide **proof of residency**.

Howland Hill Road (Residents Only)

County road 316, Shelly Creek,

County Road 315 Holiday Mine

County Road 311 Old Gasquet Toll Road

County Road 305 Weimer Road

Forest Service Roads 16N19 and 17N07

U.S. Highway 199 is fully closed in Del Norte County from Slant Bridge Road to Oregon Mountain Road (PM 16 to 31) due to the fires. A hard closure is in place on U.S. 199 at the Agriculture Station near the Oregon border. For the latest road conditions please visit [quickmap.dot.ca.gov](https://www.quickmap.dot.ca.gov)

Effective Sunday, August 20, 2023, the Six Rivers National Forest has issued a forest-wide closure order. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/srnf/notices/?cid=FSEPRD1096395>

The American Red Cross has opened a shelter at the Del Norte County Fairgrounds (421 US-101 N, Crescent City, CA 95531) for those who are displaced by evacuations. Red Cross disaster workers are partnering with local officials to help ensure evacuees receive necessities, including food, water and shelter.

***Please refer to the following social media for additional information:***

Smith River Complex Inciweb: [inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/casrf-smith-river-complex](https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/casrf-smith-river-complex)

Facebook: Six River National Forest: <https://www.facebook.com/SixRiversNF>

Del Norte Office of Emergency Services: <https://www.facebook.com/DelNorteOfficeOfEmergencyServices>

Del Norte County Sheriff's Office: <https://www.facebook.com/DelNorteCountySheriffDepartment>

Smith River Complex North: <https://www.facebook.com/smithrivercomplexnorth>

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest: <https://www.facebook.com/R6RRSNF/>

Josephine County Emergency Management: <https://www.facebook.com/josephinecountyEM>

<https://rvem.org/> for interactive evacuation map.