

# Olympic National Park News Release

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For Immediate Release

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## Olympic National Park Fire Update- September 11

Port Angeles, Wash. – The wildfires across Olympic National Park showed minimal activity today as a weak low pressure weather system brought increased clouds and humidity. Firefighters deployed to the Low Divide and Martins Lake Fires reported a trace of rain and firefighters on the Eagle Point Fire experienced cooler temperatures with cloud cover throughout the day.

To map the size of the fires more accurately, due to the steep and rugged terrain they are in, fire mangers had an aerial mapping survey done today. This was critically important because of the difference in fire activity yesterday compared to today; thus, an increase in reported acreage today.

Additionally, a resupply mission and fire crew addition on the Low Divide and Martins Lake Fires was completed as firefighters remain in the wilderness. Their priority task today was to prepare the Low Divide Ranger Station and Glacier Creek Bridge from any unwanted wildfire by increasing the defensible space around those sites. This is done by removing dead and down vegetation adjacent to them such as logs, brush, leaf / needle litter, and any other potentially flammable materials.

The Hurricane Fire is now 95% contained. Fire crews began the preparation of returning the nearly 1.5 miles of fire hose and hundreds of pounds of equipment deployed back up Hurricane Ridge so it can be cleaned and made available for another wildfire.

The Delabarre and Diamond Mountain fires continue to show no activity and remain at the same acreage:

<b>Fire Name</b>	<b>Initial Report</b>	<b>Estimated Size as of 9/10</b>	<b>Location</b>
Hurricane	8/28/23	4 acres	2,000 ft below Hurricane Ridge parking area
Eagle Point	8/28/23	85 acres	~5 miles out Obstruction Point Road
Diamond Mountain	9/1/23	25 acres	3.3 miles NE of Anderson Pass
Low Divide	9/1/23	60 acres	2 miles SW of Low Divide
Delabarre	9/1/23	1 acre	3 miles SE of Mount Christie
Martins Lake	9/2/23	30 acres	2 miles NE of Mount Christie

Fire is an integral part of the forested ecosystems on the Olympic Peninsula; plants and animals here have evolved with fire for thousands of years. Many factors such as weather, topography, and vegetation influence fire behavior and the effects that fires have on natural resources.

## **Background Information**

All six active fires in Olympic National Park ignited when a series of lightning strikes occurred on the Olympic Peninsula in the afternoon on August 28.

On August 18, Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest implemented a fire ban including charcoal fires. The move to Stage 2 fire restrictions is due to continued hot and dry conditions that are forecasted to continue at least through the end of October as dry conditions in the region persist. **One less spark means one less wildfire.**

## **Closures**

**Due to wildfire activity the following closures are in effect until further notice:**

The Skyline Trail is closed between the top of the Elip Creek Connector trail and Low Divide until further notice. This closure affects 20 miles of the Skyline Trail and includes both Three Prune and Lake Beauty wilderness campsites. Additionally, the North Fork Quinault Trail from Elip Creek trail junction to Chicago Camp is also now closed and includes the Trapper, Sixteen Mile, and Low Divide wilderness campsites. The Martins Park Trail remains closed.

Obstruction Point Road and the trailhead will be closed until further notice.

Olympic National Park Wilderness Information Center (WIC) will be notifying backcountry permit holders who may be impacted by this closure. Any permit holders who plan to backpack in the above impacted areas should contact the WIC at 360-565-2992 or by emailing OLYM\_WIC@nps.gov.

## **Weather and Fire Behavior**

Upper-level ridge will push east today ahead of an approaching weak frontal system. This feature is slated to bring cooler temperatures and a slight chance of light rain showers during the evening. An additional weak disturbance is in line to arrive Monday night into Tuesday with more slight shower chances.

**Information for the Eagle Point Fire can be found at:** [Eagle Point Fire Information | InciWeb \(wildfire.gov\)](#)

**Information for the Hurricane Fire can be found at:** [Hurricane Fire Information | InciWeb \(wildfire.gov\)](#)

Olympic National Park information: [www.nps.gov/olym](http://www.nps.gov/olym)

Olympic National Forest information: [www.fs.usda.gov/olympic](http://www.fs.usda.gov/olympic)

State and county area burn bans: [www.waburnbans.net](http://www.waburnbans.net)