



SMITH RIVER COMPLEX—SOUTH

Incident Update

Date: 9/23/23



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youtube.com/@smithrivercomplex-srf

Fire Information: 707-383-9727

Hours: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Email: 2023.SmithRiverComplex@firenet.gov

Incident Website: inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/casrf-smith-river-complex-

Location: Six Rivers National Forest

Size: 94,508

Percent Contained: 84%

Cause: Lightning

Vegetation: Timber (Litter and Understory) and Brush

Number of Personnel Assigned: 1394

Start Date: Tuesday, August 15, 2023, 6:01 PM

CURRENT SITUATION: Friday's calmer weather helped to minimize fire behavior. Crews continued to patrol containment lines of the main fire and US 199 while also mending any damage to the forest caused by firefighting operations. Crews monitored the fire on the east side, where it is burning in the Siskiyou Wilderness. Helicopters conducted water drops to reduce the fire's intensity and slow its southward progression toward the Bear Basin Lookout.

There has been no significant activity on the Hurdy Gurdy. Crews continuously monitor the northwest portion as it smolders and creeps towards the main fire. Today resource's will construct direct line using MIST (minimal impact suppression tactics) where appropriate and indirect line from 17N035 (H26) to Hurdy Gurdy Creek.

Predicted flood watch Sunday afternoon through Monday Evening is forecasted. Fire management officers are evaluating and planning to ensure the safety of firefighter crews and minimize damage to the forest. Some of the key safety measures are to remove heavy equipment from the burn area to pavement, this step helps prevent potential damage to the forest. They will also be deploying firefighting crews strategically in tactical locations allowing them to engage with the fire when conditions permit, enabling efficient firefighting efforts. Importantly, it also ensures that they can retreat to safety if conditions worsen or become hazardous. Safety is always a top priority.

WEATHER: *FLOOD WATCH SUNDAY AFTERNOON THROUGH MONDAY EVENING*****

A weak weather system will move in off of the Pacific today with clouds increasing and a chance of sprinkles this afternoon and evening. Valley temperatures 60-65°, Ridgetops 56-60°, Valley relative humidity 44-52%, Ridgetops 52-60%. Increased onshore flow with cloud cover will result in cooler temperatures and higher humidity. Ridgetop winds will be out of the west-southwest 4-7 mph in the morning increasing to 8-12 mph in the afternoon.

EVACUATIONS: Some Del Norte County evacuation zones remain under either a Level 2 (Get Set) or Level 1 (Get Ready) evacuation order. View the interactive evacuation map online: tinyurl.com/29vv2wpm.

AIR QUALITY: Smoke outlooks with air quality and forecast information are available here: tinyurl.com/258mfms3.

CLOSURES: US 199 in Del Norte County will be fully closed twice daily, Monday through Friday, from 8 AM to 11 AM and from 1 PM. to 4 PM. During all open hours, traffic will be one-way and piloted between Madrona and Oregon Mountain Road. Motorists should anticipate delays during all open hours. Caltrans provides information on current highway conditions online (roads.dot.ca.gov), by phone (800-427-7623), and on Facebook (facebook.com/CaltransD1).

Six Rivers National Forest reduced its forest closure order for the Gasquet, Lower Trinity, and Mad River Ranger Districts. The Forks' Boat Launch, Myrtle Beach River Access and Margie's River Access are open for public access. Visit updated closure order at https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1139169.pdf.