



SMITH RIVER COMPLEX—SOUTH

Incident Update

Date: 9/20/23



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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: 92,914 acres

Percent Contained: 77%

Cause: Lightning

Vegetation: Timber (Litter and Understory) and Brush

Number of Personnel Assigned: 1,526

Start Date: Tuesday, August 15, 2023, 0700

CURRENT SITUATION: An effort is underway to recover from a cluster of lightning strikes that turned into a wildfire threatening both communities and the delicate balance of the forest lands. This work, which now includes a "Suppression Repair Plan," marks the beginning of a mission to ensure the safety of the people and restoration the land. At the heart of this process of transforming the charred trees into tiny fragments, is a practice known as "chipping." The road repair is under way, assisting with damage and starting the road to recovery. The repair plan has one goal: the long-term health and stability of forest land in need of recovery.

While the repair efforts are important, the fire fight is not over. Firefighters search the area for any hidden hot spots that could still pose a threat of reignition. In Idlewild, Washington Flat, and Little Jones Creek, dedicated crews continue mop-up operations and patrols.

The "Hurdy Gurdy" poses its own unique challenges, such as steep terrain, and strong northeast winds. This fire displayed a moderate level of activity on its west side yesterday, air support assisted halting the fire's advance through water drops. Firefighter' continued dedication ensures that, day by day, the wildfire is brought under control.

WEATHER: Poor RH recoveries are expected tonight in the higher elevations as gusty north to northeast winds persist. Valley temperature 66-73°, Ridgetops 60-67°, Valleys relative humidity 28-38°, Ridgetops 25-35°. Ridge top winds north to northeast 15-20 mph with gust up to 30 mph.

EVACUATIONS: The Del Norte County Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with the Del Norte County Office of Emergency Services, has lifted all evacuation notices for the Gasquet, Patrick Creek, Washington Flat and Little Jones Creek areas. 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.