



Rich Cowger, Incident Commander
 Don Pyrah, Deputy Incident Commander

Fire Information (509) 800-7550 (Call or Text)

News Release – July 22,2024

Swawilla and Owhi Fires

Northern Rockies Complex Incident Management Team 6 assumed command of the Swawilla, Owhi and Bridge Cr. fires on July 22nd, working with the Colville Agency of Confederated Tribes and Department of Natural Resources in fire suppression efforts. Team 6 deeply appreciates the great work accomplished over the last few days by Northeast Washington Incident Management Team.

Quick Facts Swawilla Summary

Approximate Size	5,500 acres
Containment	0%
Resources on Fire	3 - 20 Person Hand Crew 2 - Dozers 1 - Skidgeon 4 - Engines
Total Personnel	105
Fire Danger	Very High
Values at Risk	Timber, Rangeland, Ecological Values, Future Values, and Air Quality

Nespelem: The Swawilla Fire was initiated by lightning on July 17th, 2024. It is located 9 miles south of Keller. Owhi fire (88 acres) is currently in patrol status.

Yesterday (July 21st), the Swawilla Fire progressed north and east, burning onto Mica Peak and Mica Ridge. Fire progression slowed after it reached the ridge and fire behavior reduced. A similar story is occurring on the eastern flank of the fire, as fire behavior was reduced as it backed towards Highway 21. Crews were able to hold the fire along Swawilla Basin road and constructed further line on the western edge; holding the edge around Kwei Kwei Canyon. Wind and topography drove the fire through these areas. Crews worked in conjunction with aerial support to maintain and expand fire lines. Firefighters worked on structure protection along Highway 21 and Manilla Creek Road. Today (July 22nd), additional crews are arriving, along with dozers and other heavy equipment. Crews will continue to construct fire line north of Mica Ridge, where safe and advantageous to do so, working in tandem with aerial support to further reduce fire behavior.

Swawilla Basin Road and Highway 21, south of Manilla Creek Road, is temporarily closed. Crews are working along the roadside and active fire could be present along these routes. The public should remain vigilant that additional roads (for example, Manilla Cr. Road) could be closed due to fire behavior. Keller Ferry and Highway 21 south of Manilla Ck. Road will remain CLOSED. Staff will reevaluate fire conditions daily to determine when the ferry will reopen.

PUBLIC AND FIRE FIGHTER SAFETY IS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY

Please keep wildfire crews safe and avoid the area.



This Fire Update was produced by Northern Rockies Complex Incident Management Team 6

**Follow Us for
Updated Fire
Information:**



InciWeb



@NewFireInfo