Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

Lodgepole Fire Daily Update

Friday, August 16, 2024

Acres: 35 Phone: 509-213-4890, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Containment: 5% Email: 2024.Lodgepole@firenet.gov

Email: 2024.Lodgepole@firenet.gov Fire Information: linktr.ee/CIIMT14



<u>Current Situation</u>: The Lodgepole Fire is located in the Norse Peak Wilderness, north of Highway 410 near the Lodgepole Campground, located within the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. The fire is burning within the burn scar of the 2017 Norse Fire which is filled with large amounts of dead and down debris as well as standing dead trees which are extremely hazardous to firefighters.

On Thursday, multiple helicopters were utilized for water dropping missions to slow the fire's spread while firefighters on the ground worked to make progress through the dangerous terrain. Firefighters and heavy equipment have been constructing a control line between the fire and Highway 410. Protecting the highway corridor and preventing the Lodgepole Fire's southern spread remains a top priority for the incident.

Due to the fire's location in the steep and rugged wilderness as well as the enormity of large dead standing trees throughout the previous burn scar, firefighters are having to be strategic on where they can safely construct control lines. Firefighters have been looking to identify natural holding features that would assist them in containing the fire.

The fire remains a threat to multiple privately owned cabins in nearby Forest Service recreational residence cabin tracts both to the east and south of the fire. Crews are also continuing their work to prep the areas around threatened structures in the event the fire does move in their direction.

Weather: Increasing clouds over the fire area today. Windy conditions in the morning will subside, with winds coming from the west then north in the afternoon. Slight decrease in minimum humidity (33-39%) and slight increase in high temperatures (70's) over the fire area compared to yesterday. Saturday afternoon and night a Flash Flood watch has been issued over the burn areas, with measurable amounts of rain expected.

<u>Closures</u>: The Lodgepole Campground is currently Closed, but there are no other forest or campground closures due to the Lodgepole Fire.

Highway 410 remains open for travel. Please use caution in the area due to smoke impacts as well as firefighters and emergency equipment working along the highway. Travelers are encouraged to check the highway status through Washington State Department of Transportation website at tinyurl.com/4ptbkfua.

Air Quality and Smoke: Air quality and smoke condition outlooks can be found at <u>airnow.gov</u>.