



Forest Service News Release

Contact: Carla Robinson

Public Affairs Officer

carla.robinson@usda.gov

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/willamette/>

Linton Creek Fire closure reduction to reopen more than 90 recreation sites and trails

Newly open areas to include Proxy Falls, Aufderheide Drive

Springfield, Ore. – Sept. 30, 2024 – The Willamette National Forest is significantly reducing the Linton Creek Fire Closure area due to successful firefighting efforts and favorable weather conditions, reopening access to more than 90 recreation sites and trails in the McKenzie River and Middle Fork Ranger Districts on Oct. 1, 2024.

The previous Linton Creek Fire Closure area has been reduced into four smaller closures around the Boulder Creek, Linton Creek, Young Grasshopper, and 374 fires, which sparked from a lightning storm on Sept. 6, 2024. The updated closure orders will be in effect from Oct. 1, 2024, until Jan. 1, 2025, unless rescinded or modified sooner.

Newly reopened recreation opportunities include Proxy Falls, Aufderheide Drive, and portions of the Three Sisters and Mount Washington Wilderness areas. Reopened trailheads include Benson/Tenas Lakes, Foley, and Linton Lake. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is expected to reopen Highway 242, restoring access to Dee Wright Observatory, Scott Lake Campground, and the Benson and Tenas Lakes area.

“Although fire season is not yet over, we feel confident about the progress fire crews are making on wildfires,” said McKenzie River District Ranger Darren Cross. “We want to make sure people can get back out there and enjoy their favorite places as soon as it is safe to do so.”

With large portions of the Three Sisters and Mount Washington Wilderness areas reopened and accessible, visitors are reminded to get Central Cascades Wilderness Permits, which are required through Oct. 15. [Willamette National Forest - Recreation Passes & Permits \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/willamette-national-forest-recreation-passes-permits)

The reduced closures also greatly expand hunting opportunities, reopening miles of road and thousands of acres. As wildfires are still active in the area, hunters are advised to review existing closure maps and stay out of closed areas for their own safety and the safety of firefighters.

For a map of the closure areas and a complete list of recreation sites and roads included in the orders, visit our website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/willamette/alerts-notice>. For updates on Highway 242, visit [TripCheck.com](https://www.tripcheck.com).

Boulder Fire

The lightning-caused Boulder Fire is 523 acres and 72% contained. No recreation sites are in the new closure area.

Linton Creek Fire

The lightning-caused Linton Creek Fire is 1,310 acres and 0% contained. Closed recreation sites and trails include Obsidian Trail #3529 Trail and Trailhead, Obsidian Stock Trailhead, Glacier Way Trail #4436, portions of the Pacific Crest Trail #2000, Linton Meadows Trail #3547, and Eileen Lake Trail #4348.

Young Grasshopper Fire

The lightning-caused Young Grasshopper Fire is 1,245 acres and 12% contained. Closed recreation sites and trails include Grasshopper Trail #3569 and Trailhead, Grasshopper Meadow Trail #3314, Chucksney Mountain Trail #3306, Box Canyon #3360, North Fork Segment #4 Trail #3666.4 and Trailhead, Indian Ridge Trail #3315, Hidden Lake SIA Trailhead, Indian Ridge (Upper and Lower) Trailheads, and Indian Ridge Lookout.

374 Fire

The lightning-caused 374 Fire is 64 acres and 0% contained. Closed trails include Mud Lake Trail #3518, Porky Lake Trail #4338, Starwano Trail #3537, Lake Side Trail #3525, and portions of McBee Trail #3523, Crossing Way Trail #3370, Mink Lake Trail #3526, portions of the Pacific Crest Trail #2000, and Elk Creek Trail #3510.

Follow us on Facebook and X @WillametteNF for the latest updates.

###