



RED FIRE DAILY UPDATE

Thursday, September 5, 2024

541-208-1766

2024_red@firenet.gov

<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/ordef-red-fire>;

facebook.com/2024RedFire



Size: 877 acres **Location:** 5 miles west of Crescent Lake Junction, OR **County:** Klamath
Start Date: July 17, 2024 **Cause:** Lightning **Containment:** 0% **Total Personnel:** 115

Activities – The size of the fire remains at 877 acres. The continued warm and dry weather has contributed to an increase in fire activity mostly in the interior of the fire footprint. Today work along the shaded fuel break will continue with chip, slash, and log removal. Yesterday, firefighters tested the 1.5-mile hose lay along Whitefish Creek Trail that is in place to check fire spread as it approaches the trail. Additional structure protection equipment remains in place along Crescent Lake and is periodically being tested. Firefighters predict that the Red Fire will remain on the landscape until the area experiences significant rain or snow this fall.

Closures – To provide for the safety of firefighters, equipment operators, and the public, the Deschutes National Forest emergency closure around Crescent Lake and in the Diamond Peak Wilderness is still in effect. *Forest Service Road 60 is closed, and road guards have been posted for public safety.* The emergency closure is being reevaluated daily as conditions continue to change. More closure information is available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/deschutes/alerts-notice/?aid=89091>.

The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) is closed from north of Windigo Pass (Mile 1883.5) to Highway 58 (Mile 1909.5). The previous PCT detour around the fire has been decommissioned as of noon on September 4. Currently there is not a detour around the closure. A map displaying the PCT closure can be viewed on the Pacific Crest Trail Association's (PCTA) website at: <https://closures.pcta.org/closure/Mr02bIDvEwX1SJ9h1H49>.

The 2024 season for commercially harvesting Matsutake mushrooms opened for the Deschutes National Forest this week and will close November 4, 2024. A commercial permit must be purchased for the picking of any Matsutake mushrooms on National Forests that are harvested for resale. The emergency fire closure impacts certain harvesting locations.

Incident Weather, Fire Behavior, and Smoke – A warming and drying trend has returned this week with temperature and relative humidity reaching critical values. Temperatures will continue to be warm at 80 to 85 degrees and relative humidity is forecasted to reach 15% to 20% during the day. A light east wind will reduce overnight humidity recovery further contributing to drier conditions. These conditions will persist into the weekend. New fires are the source of most of the smoke in the area.

Strategy – A full suppression strategy is being implemented utilizing indirect tactics, shaded fuel breaks, structure protection equipment, trails, and hose lays. When the fire started, an assessment by the initial attack incident commander, local fire managers and forest staff determined the risk to responders was too great to continue with direct attack due to a lack of escape routes and safety zones, snag hazards, and firefighter safety issues in the remote location. Firefighters are continually reevaluating the safest, most effective suppression strategy based on changing weather, fuel conditions, and fire behavior. Firefighter and public safety remain the incident management team's highest priority in managing this fire. Expect to see increased fire activity due to the warmer and drier conditions.

Evacuations – The *WILDFIRE! Level 1 – BE READY to Evacuate* notice issued by Klamath County Emergency Management for Crescent Lake, Odell Lake, and Crescent Junction areas remains in effect (INCENDIO FORESTAL! Nivel 1 - ESTÉ PREPARADO para evacuar de las siguientes zonas: Crescent Lake, Odell Lake, Crescent Junction). Visit www.klamathcounty.org/300/emergency-management for more information or to sign up for alerts.

Fire Restrictions – Stage 2 Public Use Fire Restrictions – which prohibit open fires, including in developed campgrounds – remain in effect for the Deschutes National Forest. The Industrial Fire Precaution Level is currently Level III "Partial Shutdown." Visit fs.usda.gov/detail/deschutes/home/?cid=stelpdb5297376 for more information.