



Rail Ridge Fire Update

October 05, 2024

Central Oregon Wildfire Information: centraloregonfire.org

Email: 2024.railridge@firenet.gov – Phone: 541-208-7111

Social Media, Evacuation and Closure Information: <https://linktr.ee/RailRidgeFire>

Acres: 168,002 – Containment: 89% – Detection: 09/02/24 – Cause: Lightning – Personnel: 601

Forest closures around the Rail Ridge and Crazy Creek Fires remain in place. A map with the ODFW hunting management unit areas overlayed with the closure area and fire footprint can be found at: <https://linktr.ee/RailRidgeFire>. For the safety of firefighters and forest visitors it is of the utmost importance that the closure areas remain in place at this time. Potential hazardous circumstances associated with the area include hazard trees and ground stability in recently burned areas, continued burning within the interior of the fire, firefighters and apparatus traveling and working in the area and there is no means to quickly notify public in the fire area of emerging safety concerns.

Operational Update

Yesterday, the passing cold front brought high winds across the fire area which tested the established containment lines. No significant growth was reported, and current containment lines held. Interior pockets of fuels did become active during the afternoon, and the westerly side of the fire in the Black Canyon Wilderness continued burning through the Honeymoon Creek area. Tactical firing operations were completed to prevent fire from advancing toward Wolf Mountain Lookout and the communication site. Early in the day a smoke column west of the Rail Ridge Fire was reported. Local resources responded and found and unburned island of fuel within the Crazy Creek Fire footprint to be burning and was suppressed quickly.

Last night's relative humidity recovery is a welcome start to the weekend for firefighters. Coupled with predicted lighter winds, fire activity is expected to be minimal. Interior flare-ups and additional acres of burning in the Black Canyon Wilderness area will continue to produce smoke. Firefighters will continue to strengthen contingency control lines and containment around the Black Canyon Wilderness. As needed, tactical firing operations will be used to add depth to lines that are already in place. Suppression repairs are ongoing with resource advisors, and mop-up and patrolling will continue around the contained portions of the fire.

Weather

Terrain driven winds around 10mph are expected over the fire area with mostly sunny conditions and temperatures in the mid to upper 60's. Relative humidity will again recover tonight to an estimated 75-80% but will dip into the 20-25% range in the afternoon today.

Evacuations

Level 1 evacuations in Grant County were dropped this week and the level 2 evacuations remain. Wheeler County evacuation remain the same.

For Current Evacuation Levels all affected counties, please visit: <https://linktr.ee/RailRidgeFire>

Closures

The U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have implemented closures for the Rail Ridge Fire. For more details and closure maps, visit <https://linktr.ee/RailRidgeFire>