



Rail Ridge Fire Update

October 20, 2024

Central Oregon Wildfire Information: centraloregonfire.org

Email: 2024.railridge@firenet.gov ~ Phone: 541.208.7111

Acres: 176,601 ~ Containment: 90% ~ Start Date: 09/02/24 ~ Cause: Lightning ~ Personnel: 439

Special Notes: Fire area closures are still in effect. For more information on closures as well as Wheeler County and Grant County evacuation information, visit <https://linktr.ee/RailRidgeFire>. Residents and visitors are reminded that entering a closed area is illegal, and that these closures are in place for public and firefighter safety. Please note that agency officials and fire managers meet daily to assess fire closures and understand the importance of hunting and other recreational activities to the local communities. Thank you for your continued support as we strive toward completing work on this wildfire.

Weather and Fire Behavior: Warmer, drier weather with southwest winds will increase the potential for elevated fire activity during Sunday's operational period. A cold front will approach from the northwest Sunday, increasing temperatures and generating southwest winds with gusts up to 20 mph possible. Maximum temperatures will reach the upper 70s in the valleys and mid to upper 60s on the ridgetops. The front will bring a brief round of showers around daybreak Monday. Primary fire behavior characteristics will likely include smoldering ground fuels and limited surface fire creeping. Heavy fuels such as stump holes and log ends will continue to burn and consume due to long-term seasonal drying. Smoke is still visible in upper Cottonwood Creek as well as A&M Ridge.

Operations Saturday: The primary missions for firefighters included repairing containment lines, backhaul of equipment no longer needed on the fireline, hazard tree removal along Forest Road 2150, road repair, and building an indirect line in the northwest portion of the fire.

Operations Sunday: Resources from the fire will remain ready to respond to any increased fire activity within the fire perimeter or any new start in the area. Much of the repair work along the west, south and east is expected to be completed by the end of shift today. Firefighters will continue preparing the indirect containment line in the northwest corner of the fire. A total of five road groups with graders, rollers and water tenders will repair roads that were impacted by equipment and vehicles during the fire suppression effort.

USFS & BLM Closures / Evacuation Information / Fire Restrictions / Social Media for the Rail Ridge Fire area can be found at: <https://linktr.ee/RailRidgeFire>.