



Rail Ridge Fire Update

October 23, 2024

Central Oregon Wildfire Information: centraloregonfire.org

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

Acres: 176,619 ~ Containment: 92% ~ Start Date: 09/02/24 ~ Cause: Lightning ~ Personnel: 383

Hunting and Fire Closure Areas: With the approach of elk season and shifting seasonal weather patterns, Rail Ridge Fire managers encourage forest users to make sure intended camping and hunting areas are not closed due to wildfire activity. Areas of the Rail Ridge Fire have impacted hunting grounds on the Ochoco and Malheur National Forests, BLM lands, and areas managed by ODFW. Hazardous conditions often follow active wildfire. This includes ground instability, difficult to recognize dangerous hotspots that may be under soil, and hazard trees existing within the area.

Forest access roads are still being utilized by fire crews and equipment completing repair work. Fire Area Closures remain in place for both firefighter and public safety, and public cooperation is appreciated as teams continue project efforts. For more information on closures as well as Wheeler County and Grant County evacuation information, visit <https://linktr.ee/RailRidgeFire>.

Private Landowners: Are you a private landowner or contractor with projects within the fire perimeter or Malheur National Forest Rail Ridge #2 Fire Closure (06-04-01-24-30)? Contact our fire information line at 541-208-7111, or email us at: 2024.railridge.liaison@firenet.gov with questions about land access, fire suppression activities, or suppression repair efforts in your area.

Operations: The priority for firefighters continues to be identifying and repairing areas impacted by fire line and dozer operations throughout the course of the Rail Ridge Fire. Road crews are working to clear roads of logs and debris as a result of shaded fuel break work. Fire resources are additionally evaluating impacts to historic and cultural sites within the fire zone. Much of the operational work in the western, southern and eastern zones of the fire has been completed.

Weather and Fire Behavior:

A brief front will pass through Oregon today with chances of light precipitation over the fire area. A warming trend Friday and Saturday will lead to increasing southwest winds with chances of showers returning Saturday. This will be followed by continued cooling and rain-snow chances into Monday. Recent cold temperatures and wet conditions have dampened potential for increased fire behavior. Elevated relative humidity has resulted in limited drying of fine fuels, while heavy fuels will continue to smolder and consume.

The next Rail Ridge Fire update will be posted Friday, October 25.

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