



Rail Ridge Fire Update

October 18, 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: 176,383 ~ Containment: 89% ~ Detection: 09/02/24 ~ Cause: Lightning ~ Personnel: 561

Special Notes: Although the weather conditions have decreased fire activity and fire suppression operations, there is still an immense amount of rehab work to be done on the Rail Ridge Fire. Hundreds of miles of containment and contingency line was built during initial suppression efforts that need to be repaired. Fire suppression repair or rehab, is a series of immediate post-fire actions taken to repair damages and minimize potential soil erosion and impacts resulting from fire suppression activities. Northwest Team 2 is working with the local USFS, BLM and ODF offices to supply resources and personnel to implement a mutually agreed upon suppression repair plan while they are on this assignment.

Fire suppression repair work occurs anywhere the ground is disturbed during suppression operations. This could be a small two-foot-wide handline or a 20-foot dozer fireline. Some roads are damaged by heavy equipment and need to be repaired to their previous state of use. Staging areas, supply drop points, and places where firefighters install pumps can also require repair.

Fire Behavior & Weather: Weather has been partly to mostly cloudy with on and off rain and snow showers throughout the day. Minimal rainfall was recorded, but higher elevations did see snowfall of 0.5" to 1". Humidity remained above 70% across the fire with winds gusting 20-30 mph at times. Temperatures struggled to rise much above freezing. Mostly cloudy skies will quickly move east, leaving clear skies and light to calm winds today with temperatures in the 20s. High pressure in the region today and Saturday will result in clear skies and temperatures warming from below normal today to near to slightly above normal over the weekend.

Operations Yesterday: Firefighters continued work on the fuel break at FS Road 3850. They backhauled hoses and pumps that were no longer in use. Backhauling is the process of removing supplies and equipment from a fireline after a fire has been secured. Due to the rain and snow, road repair was slow going and access was a challenge.

Operations Today: Although risk of new fire starts is very low, NW Team 2 still has initial fire attack responsibilities under the Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) over the fire area, meaning the current resources will respond to any new fires. Heavy repair work continues throughout the fire footprint, with firefighters prioritizing their work to be the most effective given the weather and ground conditions. Most of the repair work will be in the south due to muddy roads in the north. In addition to repair work, fire crews continue to prioritize fire suppression, mop-up, and patrol where necessary.

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