



Rail Ridge Fire Update

October 13, 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: 174,641 – Containment: 89% – Detection: 09/02/24 – Cause: Lightning – Personnel: 614

Forest visitors near the Rail Ridge Fire should be aware that Forest and BLM closures as well as fire restrictions around the Rail Ridge Fire remain in place.

Operational Update: Yesterday, the cloud coverage that was providing shade over the fire lifted in the afternoon, causing fuels within the fire area to begin drying out as the sun intensified and humidity lowered. While there was no significant wind to propel the fire, fire activity did increase from the very mild behavior that we have witnessed the last few days. The area that began as the spot fire on Cougar Ridge earlier this week merged with the main footprint and is still displaying active fire behavior in the northwest corner of the fire. Along most of the fire's edge, fire crews continued to work diligently to continue patrol, mop up, and complete suppression work. This included removing hazard trees, road grading, mop-up of stump holes and hot spots that are still smoldering.

Fire personnel moved more of the heavy equipment away from contained areas of the fire to focus efforts on establishing indirect fire line around the active fire area near Cougar Ridge. Fire managers are utilizing existing roadways and heavy equipment to establish this line, as this method minimizes danger to firefighters. Structures near the uncontained fire line on northwest edge of the fire are being prepped with sprinkler systems by firefighters.

Today, weather conditions are expected to continue to dry with warmer temperatures and lower humidity. Expect to see increased smoke and fire behavior as we move through the weekend. Primary fire behavior at this time is largely backing and flanking in the northwest corner of the fire near Cougar Ridge. The possibility of spot fires up to a half mile from the active fire are possible today due to the continued dry weather. Any fire growth at this time is predicted to be within the containment lines that are being prepared. Heat sources continue to smolder and are widely scattered within the interior of the fire. Firefighters remain across the fire area to monitor for any fire activity and to mitigate hazards that are still present. Air attack and helicopters will continue to be used today as needed. The fire team and local agencies continue to work with local landowners, businesses, and affiliates who need access within the fire area closures. Due to the multitude of hazards within the fire area, these requests are being prioritized and official escorts are being provided as safety and availability of escorts are feasible.

Weather: High pressure will be overhead through the beginning of this week. Although winds will remain light today, RH values this afternoon will drop to near 20%. Expect similar or slightly drier conditions on Monday and Tuesday as this high-pressure system remains positioned over the area until late Tuesday. Winds will be light and mostly terrain driven through Tuesday. The weather pattern will make a significant change on Wednesday, with much cooler conditions and possibly some light rainfall as well.

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