

U.S. Forest Service Klamath National Forest Six Rivers National Forest Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest



News Release

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Slater and Devil Fires Update

Saturday, October 31, 2020; 9:00 a.m.

Slater Fire – 157,169 acres and 85% containment

The Slater fire continues to show only scattered and isolated interior heat. Fire behavior remains limited along the fire edge on the southwest aspect of Swan Mountain, and along the headwaters of Thompson Creek in the Red Buttes Wilderness and Kangaroo Mountain Roadless Area. An infrared detection flight late Friday night showed an additional 74 acres of fire growth in this area. On the remainder of the fire area there are only limited areas of fire spread with areas of smoldering and surface creep on southern aspects. Friday, firefighters conducted very limited strategic firing operations along the ridgeline running southeast from Swan Mountain to Little Swan Mountain to prevent the fire from crossing this ridgeline and spreading eastward. This work will continue today.

The north and south flanks remain in a patrol status, with suppression repair finishing up over the next several days. Efforts are shifting to dispersing straw and seed to cover exposed soil to mitigate erosion.

On the western flank, firefighters continue to monitor the Chicago Creek drainage, where very little heat remains. Fire line and road repair will conclude in the next several days.

Reopening the Grayback Road continues to be a high priority. The road remains closed to public use due to the presence of hazard trees.

Devil Fire - 8,885 acres and 67% containment

The Devil Fire is being monitored by aviation resources. There has been no measurable fire growth for several days, and no personnel are assigned on the ground.

Weather and Fire Behavior

High pressure rebuilds over the fire today, providing strong subsidence inversion with dry NE ridgetop winds. Remaining fire activity is limited to widely scattered and isolated interior heavy fuels (log ends, snag tops, stump holes) that will continue to consume producing limited amounts of smoke. There will be continued active backing and flanking fire behavior on exposed upper slopes of Swan Mtn., and upper Thompson Creek. Increased smoke production in the Swan Mtn. and upper Thompson Creek headwaters area is expected due to dry fuels and very low relative humidity. The weather pattern will change to a southerly flow beginning Tuesday, with progressive moistening of atmosphere through the week. The next chance of precipitation is anticipated on or about November 3rd-4th.



Evacuations

All evacuation orders for the Slater Fire have been lifted as of 8 a.m. October 31. Cal OES and FEMA will host a public meeting Monday, November 2 at the Happy Camp High School Gym to discuss the next phases of recovery. Learn details at (530) 643-3662 or www.facebook.com/SiskiyouCountyOES

Closures and Restrictions

The Klamath, Six Rivers, and Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forests have issued fire area closure orders for the Slater and Devil Fires. The Pacific Southwest Region is under emergency fire restrictions, although the use of gas stoves is allowed in open developed recreation sites. Find closure orders and maps at: www.fs.usda.gov/klamath, www.fs.usda.gov/rogue-siskiyou, and www.fs.usda.gov/srnf.

Additional portions of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest have reopened for use, with some areas remaining closed for emergency crews' safety and to allow for fire suppression and burned area recovery. Find closure orders and maps at: www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/rogue-siskiyou/alerts-notices. The latest updates on fire danger levels and public use restrictions within the Forest are available at: www.fs.usda.gov/detail/roguesiskiyou/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD824854.

The Bureau of Land Management Medford District has public lands closures in effect near the Slater Fire. Find closure area maps at: www.blm.gov/programs/public-safety-and-fire/fire-andaviation/regional-info/oregon-washington/fire-restrictions.

Burned Area Emergency Recovery information and resources for private landowners impacted by the Slater and Devil Fires are available at: <u>inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7237/</u>.

Prevention Message: Now more than ever, please prevent wildfires.







