



Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest



FIRE INFORMATION

Cougar Creek, Lost and Bannock Lakes Fires

Monday, August 20, 2018

Acreage: 38,023

Containment: 35 percent

Personnel: 1,070

A community fire information briefing is planned for 6:00 p.m. tonight at the Plain Community Church, 12565 Chapel Drive in Plain, Washington. Fire officials will provide information about operations, as well as current and projected fire behavior.

Cougar Creek Fire:

A change in prevailing winds pushed the fire in a southwesterly direction Saturday night and Sunday, leading to a Level 1 (BE READY) Advisory Notification for areas west of the Cougar Creek Fire. While smoke continues to be a major concern, and limits the use of aircraft in fighting fire, it did have a moderating effect on fire behavior and temperatures yesterday. On the eastern flank of the fire, crews continued with mop-up and structure protection. To the west, firefighters were actively engaged along the primary containment lines while continuing to construct and improve alternate and contingency lines.

With today's Red Flag Warning for ridgetop winds, the priority focus will be on the west and southwest sides of the fire. Mechanical equipment will be used to secure the lines around Sugarloaf. Given the wind direction, most active fire behavior is anticipated along the western edge today, and crews will be engaged in trying to keep the fire east of those primary containment lines while continuing to improve alternate and contingency lines. Crews will continue structure protection and fireline improvement in the Entiat Valley on the northeast side. Air resources are poised to respond should visibility clear enough for safe operations.

Lost Fire:

The Lost Fire is being monitored with the assistance of the Distributed Real Time Infrared (DRTI) Flight. The acreage remains at 114.

Bannock Lakes Fire:

This lightning-caused fire is approximately 17 miles west of Stehekin in the Glacier Peaks Wilderness and remains around 444 acres. The fire is burning among large rocky outcroppings and isolated clusters of timber in steep, inaccessible terrain and is being monitored by air and satellite. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) is closed from Suiattle Pass to High Bridge. The PCT detour is from Suiattle Pass to Stehekin. More information and a map is available at www.pcta.org.

Weather and Fire Behavior:

Winds have shifted and are expected to blow from the East and Northeast throughout the day. Smoke will continue to be heavy across the area. Trees burning on the northern sections are well sheltered, but still expected to show action within the interior of the perimeter. Sections of the fire that have not been exposed to winds will be susceptible to burning today.

Traffic Safety:

There is increased traffic in Leavenworth and Plain due to fire resources accessing the west side of the fire. Extra caution and slower speeds are advised.

Cougar Creek Fire Evacuation Levels:

A Level 1 Fire Advisory Notification was issued for Chumstick Rd north of Merry Canyon (both sides of the road), Merry Canyon; Second Creek and Moon Canyon, community of Plain, including Ponderosa Estates, Plain River Rd and other subdivisions, Chiwawa Loop Rd to include Chiwawa River Pines, and all of the Fish Lake and Lake Wenatchee areas to Coles Corner.

Entiat River Road north from Mad River Road to the end of Entiat River Road, Ardenvoir, and Mad River Road is at Evacuation Level 2. While roadblocks will not be staffed, deputies will patrol the valley and strictly enforce the lower speed limit of 25 mph.

Entiat River Road from Crum Canyon north to Ardenvoir and all of Crum Canyon Road is at Evacuation Level 1.

For more information, call the Chelan County Emergency Management at 509-667-6863 or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CCSOEM. An American Red Cross shelter, at 14916 US 97A in Entiat, is on standby. The Red Cross can be contacted at 509-663-3907.

Smoke:

Smoke from area fires continues to affect surrounding communities. Individuals with respiratory problems are encouraged to acquire N95 masks. These masks are available at local fire stations, provided by the Chelan County Sheriff's Office. For more information on smoke and public health, go to www.wasmoke.blogspot.com or <https://bit.ly/2J22754> (Spanish).

U.S. Forest Service Closure Orders:

- Cougar Creek and Lost Fires: <https://bit.ly/2MkmKew>
- Bannock Lakes Fire: <https://bit.ly/2nezyF6>
- Whitepine Fire: <https://bit.ly/2nesWqg>
- Area businesses are open. Please consider showing your support by shopping in the local community.

Incident Management Team:

Pacific Northwest Incident Management Team 3 (Type 1) continues to work closely with cooperators from the US Forest Service, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Entiat Rural Fire District 8, Chelan County Fire District 3, Peshastin Rural District 6, Lake Wenatchee Fire and Rescue, Chelan County Sheriff's Office, Chelan County Department of Emergency Management, Chelan County Public Utility Dept., WA Dept. of Transportation, American Red Cross, Chelan Public Schools, and Chelan Public Works.

Fire Information:

Phone: 509-664-9210 (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.)

Email: cougarcreekfireinfo2018@gmail.com

Inciweb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6053/>

Facebook: facebook.com/CougarCreekFire #WaWildfire #CougarCreekFire

Interactive Map: <https://bit.ly/2MnFB9j>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/cougarcreekfire/>

Sign Up for Daily Updates

<https://bit.ly/2sRTpMp>