

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

28910 Hwy 20 West • Hines, Oregon 97738 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>

Contact: Tara Martinak (541) 573-4400 • Release No. OR-BU-13-23 • August 16, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Wildfire season steady in Harney County; *Lava and House Creek fires most active*

HINES, Ore. – Wildfire season in Harney County has been steady for the past month. Last week's thunderstorms followed by days of dry heat and windy conditions brought over 30 fires to the area. Most were kept to less than an acre in size, though remote locations, rocky terrain and heavy fuels gave firefighters some difficulty on a handful of incidents. The Big Pine fire, located approximately 8 miles southeast of Buchanan, was contained at 75 acres; the Candy Kid fire, located 8 miles north of Drewsey, reached 8.1 acres; and the Juniper Fire, located approximately 3 miles northwest of the Pine Creek School, was contained at 56 acres. The Lava Fire near the Diamond Craters Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) started August 12 and is currently estimated at 7,100 acres and 60 percent contained. Over 100 firefighters have been assigned to this incident, though many will be relocated over the weekend as the Lava Fire reaches full containment.

The House Creek fire near Mann Lake on the east side of Steens Mountain sparked up late yesterday with evening downslope winds. Visible flames were reported along a one-half to three-quarter mile front around 2:00 a.m. this morning, with limited to no direct access to the fire line. Several engine crews and dozers were quick to the scene and worked all night on a containment perimeter to the south and around the Mann Lake Ranch site. Today, ground crews and air resources have been added to the regime of engines, dozers and dozens of firefighters working the incident. The High Desert Type 3 Incident Management Team will manage the House Creek fire out of a base camp established near Mann Lake Ranch.

There is noticeable smoke and increased firefighting equipment on Highways 205 and 78 and the Lava Beds and East Steens roads. The public is asked to avoid active wildfire areas and nearby recreation sites, such as the Diamond Craters ONA near Diamond, Oregon, and Mann Lake on the east side of Steens Mountain.

Fire danger is currently rated VERY HIGH and a regulated fire closure is in effect within the Burns Interagency Fire Zone. Campfires are only permitted within designated campgrounds and all off-road driving is prohibited. The Industrial Fire Precaution Level is a level 3, which prohibits all personal woodcutting and limits commercial woodcutting. Hot and dry conditions are expected over the next several days, with a slight chance of thunderstorms beginning Wednesday. Visitors should use extreme caution when traveling through and recreating in the outdoors this time of year.

To report a wildfire, call 573-1000.

For more information on current wildfire activity, call 573-4519.

Come join the Oregon/Washington BLM on our Social Media sites for the latest on outdoor opportunities, videos of your public lands, spectacular photos, and a whole lot more!

 www.facebook.com/blmoregon  www.youtube.com/user/blmoregon

 www.flickr.com/photos/blmoregon  www.twitter.com/blmoregon

