

NEWS Release Bureau of Land Management • BIFZ

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

Burns Interagency Fire Zone • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns/fire>

Contact: Tara Martinak (541) 573-4400 • Release No. OR-020-11-19 • August 22, 2011

Burns District Office

BLM

WILDFIRE IN THEIMER CANYON BURNS 274 ACRES

HINES, Ore. –Firefighters from the Burns Interagency Fire Zone (BIFZ) were dispatched to a wildfire in Theimer Canyon, approximately 14 miles north of Burns along Highway 395 on Sunday afternoon.

The “Theimer 2” fire was reported around 2:00 p.m. on August 21 and has since burned an estimated 274 acres – 108 acres of Harney County land protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry, 68 acres of Bureau of Land Management-administered land, and 98 acres of U.S. Forest Service-administered land. The wildfire *is* in the Theimer Park area, near the “boy scout cabin,” though the structure has been protected and is in no immediate danger of being lost. The actual cause of the fire is under investigation – human involvement is suspected.

BIFZ firefighters were quick to the scene and managed support from 5 Single Engine Air Tankers, 2 heavy air tankers, 5 20-person hand crews and numerous engines and other equipment from the local area and neighboring fire Districts. The majority of the Theimer 2 fire remained on the east side of Highway 395 North, though several spot fires found their way to the west in the heat of the afternoon on Sunday.

Minimal winds throughout the evening and cooler temperatures overnight helped keep the fire under control during its first 24 hours. Today firefighters will work to keep the fire east of Highway 395 and on the west side of Theimer Canyon. Temperatures are expected in the upper 80s to low 90s, with slight winds in the afternoon. Firefighters expect to fully contain the Theimer 2 fire within the next few days.

Highway 395 was closed for six hours during the peak fire suppression activity on Sunday. Travelers can again expect short delays due to smoke and firefighting equipment on the roadway for the next few days. A pilot car will escort drivers for approximately 7 miles, between mileposts 53 and 60. If at all possible, please avoid the wildfire area until conditions improve.

There have been 31 wildfires in Harney County this summer, totaling 562 acres burned. Fire danger remains VERY HIGH and the Industrial Fire Precaution Level is a level three, partial shutdown. A regulated fire closure is in effect for the east side of Steens Mountain. 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 public use restrictions or regulated fire closures, call 573-4555.

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

