

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>

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BLM
Burns District Office

THUNDERSTORM BRINGS TWO DOZEN WILDFIRES TO HARNEY COUNTY

HINES, Oregon – Recent lightning storms brought firefighters into action throughout Harney County this week. From Tuesday evening through Wednesday afternoon, over 130 positive lightning strikes and 24 wildfire starts were recorded. The storm came after nearly six weeks of minimal wildfire activity in the area – a vast difference from the 2007 fire season when the first of several large fires began in early July.

The majority of the new fires are limited to a single tree and less than one acre in size. There are two larger incidents as well: one in the Stinkingwater Mountains estimated over 150 acres and named the Bootleg Spring Fire, and one in the Skull Creek area at approximately 15 acres.

Engines, dozers, Single Engine Air Tankers with retardant, a helicopter, water tenders and crews are working to contain the new fires. While some moisture did come with the storm, no significant amounts were reported. Today's weather predicts more showers and thunderstorms and firefighters expect additional new incidents as the day progresses.

Fire danger remains VERY HIGH and the Industrial Fire Precaution Level is a level three, partial shutdown. A regulated fire closure across the entire Burns Interagency Fire Zone prohibits off road travel, open fires except at designated campgrounds, and use of chainsaws except at loading sites, and limits smoking out of doors.

To report a wildfire, call 573-1000.

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

For more information on public use restrictions or regulated fire closures, call 573-4555.

