

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OR-030-2015-018

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Lime Hill Fire Closer to Containment

Vale, Ore. – The Lime Hill Fire that has burned more than 12,000 acres just west of Huntington, Oregon, is closer to being contained.

The High Desert Type 3 Incident Command Team took command of the Lime Hill fire yesterday morning and has been coordinating operations on the fire from the Incident Command Post (ICP) at Huntington High School ever since.

Over the past two days, sustained winds in excess of 20 miles per hour had frustrated attempts to contain the fire with hand and bulldozer lines and aerial retardant.

“The wind helped the fire jump our lines as we got started,” said Sam DeLong, Incident Commander for the High Desert Type 3 team, “you can see where we dropped retardant and dug lines, but we just couldn’t hold it.”

However, yesterday, more equipment and personnel arrived—and last night, lines held.

“We had one particular area of concern in our northeast corner,” said DeLong, “but our firefighters and air crews really beat the fire up in that area last night, so we’re closer to containment.”

The fire’s advancement has stopped for now and the fire is near 75 percent containment. Full containment is expected at some point over the weekend.

DeLong added that the priority for most of the ground personnel now is “mopping up.” This is a process where ground crews police the burned area and check for “hot spots,” or smoldering material, that could cause the fire to re-ignite. Mopping up ensures these spots stay out for good.

The cause of the fire has yet to be determined. Vale BLM officials are investigating.

If you see or suspect a wildfire, call the Vale BLM Fire Dispatch Center at 541-473-6295. For more information on reporting wildfires in Malheur and Baker counties, as well as Northeast Oregon, visit <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale/fire/report-fire.php>.

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