



# NEWS

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July 27, 2005

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY  
SOUTHWEST OREGON DISTRICT  
5286 Table Rock RD  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
SOUTHWEST OREGON NEWS MEDIA

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## **WASSON FIRE BURNS 300 ACRES BESIDE HIGHWAY 140**

The Wasson Fire broke out yesterday afternoon near Milepost 19 on Highway 140, east of White City, and burned approximately 300 acres of private and Bureau of Land Management forestland. The fire is burning in steep, rugged terrain north of the highway. Vehicle traffic on the highway is limited to one lane, and roadblocks are established at both ends of the fire.

The fire is being managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry's Medford Unit, and the incident commander is Unit Forester Greg Alexander. Engines and firefighters on scene are from the Oregon Department of Forestry, Douglas and Coos forest protective associations, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, Lake Creek Rural Fire Protection District and several contractors. Traffic control is managed by the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Oregon State Police. Landowners have also assisted with the fire suppression effort.

Firefighters have established fire line around 85 percent of the fire's perimeter, and estimate the fire is 50 percent contained. A troublesome area in the fire's northeast corner kept fire crews busy all night, and is a focus point for firefighters working today's shifts. Two helicopters are assigned to the fire for reconnaissance and water delivery, and airtankers are available at the Medford Airtanker Base.

Other suppression resources assigned to the Wasson Fire include 8 engines, 2 bulldozers, 6 20 crews and 6 water tenders. More than 150 firefighters are working day and night shifts on the fire.

A vehicle accident may have caused the fire, which was reported at 2:24 p.m. Tuesday. An investigation of the accident and the fire's specific cause is underway.

No homes are immediately threatened by the Wasson Fire. However, the Lake Creek Fire Protection District is working with ODF's incident managers and is available to provide structural fire protection if necessary.

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