



# NEWS

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July 28, 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 GROWS OVERNIGHT**

The Wasson Fire grew to approximately 650 acres last night, making runs through steep, rugged canyons and dense forest. Most of fire activity was on the east and northeast flanks of the fire. Structures and a tiger sanctuary east of the fire are threatened. The Lake Creek Fire Rural Protection District is positioning its engines in those areas.

The Wasson Fire is 50 percent contained. It is unknown when the Wasson Fire will be fully contained. Unfavorable weather conditions are contributing to the fire's continued advances. Today, high temperatures near 100, upcanyon winds in the afternoon hours, and low relative humidity will favor continued advances by the fire.

An Oregon Department of Forestry incident management team, headed by Incident Commander Jim Walker, is taking control of battling the fire this morning. Three hundred firefighters are assigned to the Wasson Fire, and a fire camp is set up at Touvelle State Park.

Fire-fighting aircraft assigned to the Wasson Fire include 8 helicopters and 3 airtankers, the latter of which are staged at Medford Airtanker Base. Engines, crews and fire management personnel and equipment are provided by 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.

The fire started Tuesday afternoon near Milepost 19 on Highway 140, east of White City. The Oregon Department of Transportation and the Oregon State Police are managing traffic on the highway in the fire area. Traffic flow may be slowed or reduced to a single lane at times due to the fire activity adjacent to the highway.

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