



Wasson Fire Jackson County, Oregon 2005

For Immediate Release
Sunday, July 31, 2005 (9 A.M.)

For more information
541-826-7129

The Wasson Fire, 15 miles east of Eagle Point, was 100 percent contained yesterday at 6 p.m. The majority of firefighters will be heading home tomorrow. A team of local crews and other fire fighting resources will continue to “mop-up” the remaining fire.

Today, firefighters continue “mop-up” and rehabilitation of the burn. Mop-up consists of extinguishing smoldering fires adjacent to the perimeter as well those in the with interior areas that could later create control problems. Rehabilitation, the final phase of work, focuses on erosion control measures on fire trails built during the fire control effort. Landowners are left to individually deal with the damage to their forests.

The fire has burned on private and public forest lands. Private forest ownership includes two private industrial and three family forestland owners. Public ownership includes USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management.

The Wasson Fire started Tuesday afternoon as a result of a vehicle accident. The fire threatened the Oregon Tiger Sanctuary and several homes but no structures were damaged with the fire being halted one-half mile short of the structures.

Highway 140, the major roadway between Medford and Klamath Falls was closed for a short time last evening, but is now open with reduced speed limits for the area adjacent to the fire. Motorists are urged to use caution while traveling Highway 140 through the fire area.

The fire is being managed by an Oregon Department of Forestry Incident Management Team under the command of Jim Walker.

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Note: Management of the Wasson Fire returns the Oregon Department of Forestry's Southwest Oregon District Monday. Their phone number is 664-3328.