**Desolation Fire**

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| Date of Ignition | September 9, 2017 |
| Cause | Lightning |
| Land Status at Fire Origin | Ochoco National Forest |
| Preparedness Level at Time of Ignition | National: PL 5Regional: PL 5 |
| Fire Size | 4,635 acres |
| Estimated Cost | $1,500,000 |
| Land Jurisdictions Affected | National Forest |
| Maximum Resources Assigned | 220 Personnel7 Crews12 Engines5 Water Tenders4 Helicopter1 Heavy Equipment |
| Structures Destroyed | 0 |
| Cooperators | Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Forestry |

**September 9-12, 2017**

The Desolation Fire started in the Mill Creek Wilderness, about 20 miles northeast Prineville near the intersection of the East Fork of Mill Creek and Desolation Canyon. Due to safety concerns related to snags and steep terrain, no ground resources were initially assigned to the fire, and aircraft was used to dump water and check it’s growth while obtaining better size estimates. On day three, strong wind gusts out of the northwest fanned the fire, pushing it south out of the wilderness toward private structures along Highway 26 and prompting Level 2 evacuation notices for around 27 residences in the Marks Creek area along Hwy 26 between mileposts 45-50. The fire was estimated at 2,000 acres.

**September 13, 2017**

A Type 3 Central Oregon Incident Management Team took command of the fire, focusing on a confine and contain strategy and keeping the fire north of the highway. Five airtankers were utilized, supporting ground resources by slowing the fire's progress and cooling actively burning flanks. Challenges remained heavy fuel, warm temperatures and afternoon winds. A structure protection group began working to secure private residences in the area. 75 firefighters were on scene, with six additional 20-person crews arriving.

**September 14-16, 2017**

The Desolation fire stayed within planned containment lines through gusty winds as firefighters worked through the day and into the night to keep the fire north of Highway 26 and protect adjacent private residences.

Crook County lowered the evacuation notice for about 30 private homes in the Mark’s Creek area to a Level 1 (Get Ready).

Firefighters continue prepping the northern containment line along Forest Road 27 with feller bunchers and other heavy equipment to form a “catcher’s mitt” with containment lines along the highway, should the fire grow toward the northeast. Crews also removed fuels around Whistler Campground and Bingham Springs Trailhead and around private property near the highway.

The Desolation Fire was mainly a ground fire, burning through dead and down timber and shrubs within the 2000 Hash Rock Fire scar.

**September 16**

The **Desolation Fire** did experience some growth, all within planned containment lines with most of it from planned burnout operations along Forest Road 27 to contain the fire. There was some growth on the north end of the fire toward Whistler Point.

Central Oregon experienced wetting rain, helping reduce fire activity and clear smoke from area wildfires.