



For more information and/or questions please contact us at pnwfac@gmail.com

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Evelyn Morgan
Gwen Hensley
Lidiana Soto

KY-DBNF
KY-DBNF
OR-CRG

Team Leader-PETL
Team Member-PETM
Team Member-PIOF(t)

Beginning August 8, Fire Prevention Education Teams (FPET) began to arrive and in-brief at three strategic locations across Oregon’s Path of Totality, in preparation for the Total Solar Eclipse on August 21. Teams initially in-briefed in Salem, Prineville and Pendleton, with coordination and support provided by a small team in Portland, based at the State Office/Regional Office, where collaboration with Northwest Interagency Coordination Center (NWCC), Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordination Group (PNWCG), Multi-Agency Command (MAC) and the Portland National Incident Management (NIMO) groups is facilitated.

In preparation for this highly anticipated event, occurring at the peak of Oregon’s fire and tourism season, strategic plans were developed earlier this year to deploy these teams, fully equipped with a variety of customized Eclipse-themed fire prevention materials and products that were prepared and ordered for the teams’ use in order to expedite the urgent nature of this event, and operate within our normal dispatch assignment parameters of 14 days. Accomplishments and activities to date include:

Northeast Oregon FPET, Team Leader April Phillips and Stacey Grimes, Trainee:

This team has been based in Pendleton, John Day and Baker City. The field units they serve include the Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman and Malheur National Forests and their cooperators and partners.

Challenges: A vast area of concentrated use along sparse population centers, varying land ownership and protection responsibilities, and high annual fire occurrence. **Focus:** Clarifying mixed messages for multi-agency fire use restrictions, participating in local government and community meetings, town halls and information sharing events.

Central Oregon FPET, Team Leader Judy Reese:

The Team is based in Prineville, and is working with the Service First field units of Central Oregon Fire Management Service (COFMS): Ochoco National Forest, Crooked River National Grassland, Prineville District BLM and the Deschutes National Forest and their cooperators and partners. **Challenges:** Their area includes approximately 12 million acres, and will be host to a large number of festivals, one expecting up to 40,000 attendees, non-traditional camping, and gathering areas on private ranches and

farms, as well as advertised as the best chance for clear skies and an extended view. **Focus:** The team's efforts have concentrated on support to the three units that have well-established plans in place for information portals at key transportation locations. Team members will embed with these groups to offer fire prevention and education messaging, signage and materials at these locations.

Northwest Oregon FPET, Team Leader Cindy Frenzel:

The Team is based in Salem, working with the Northwest Oregon District BLM, Siuslaw National Forest, Willamette National Forest and their cooperators and partners. **Challenges:** this sub-geographic area includes the Eclipse's western arrival in the US at the Pacific Ocean, near Newport and includes 70% of Oregon's population. Eclipse-based visitation is expected to attract between 200,000-500,000 people to this area. **Focus:** Breaking into three 2-person teams to cover the geographic area in support of local plans for information dissemination to the Mary's Peak, Quartzville and North Santiam areas, as well as Molalla River, Highway 18 and 20 corridors. The area is taking an all-risk approach to this event.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Agency also has a local Fire Prevention Education Team in place and is collaborating with the Central Oregon and Portland FPETs. Special emphasis here is upon the large group of Japanese visitors to the Kahneeta Resort, and associated language messaging needs.

Challenges for all teams have included cell phone and internet connectivity, and interoperability among various systems, such as building and gate access, key cards, etc. Secure lodging for the duration of the eclipse influx is also a dynamic we are navigating.

Daily Reports are being produced and circulated from the Teams to collaborators and interested parties within their assigned area(s) of operation. Due to internet access and functionality as well as team workload and field capacity demands, we anticipate these will be intermittent over the next several days. As they become available, we will compile and post those to our ftp site for your access, and include the link in our next daily mailing.

Team Contact Information:

Northwest Oregon FPET	NWORFirePrevention@gmail.com
Central Oregon FPET	COeclipseFPET@gmail.com
Northeast Oregon FPET	NEORFirePrevention@gmail.com