

More than 58,000 crop acres reported within Substation fire boundary

By ERICKA CRUZ GUEVARRA

Oregon Public Broadcasting

About 58,689 acres of crops planted in Wasco and Sherman counties were within the perimeter of the Substation Fire.

While its unclear how much of those crops were harvested before the land east of The Dalles was engulfed in flames, the numbers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture represent the first itemized estimate of the potential loss to Oregon's wheat country.

Crops make up more than

half of the area engulfed in the Substation fire, which burned 78,425 acres. Initial estimates from the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services calculated that nearly half of the crop of Wasco County may be lost as a result of the fire. The new numbers, which represent crops planted in both Wasco and Sherman counties, mean the loss could be even greater.

Still, it's too soon to say whether all planted crops were lost to the fire; the USDA doesn't know how much of those crops were

saved before the area erupted in flames.

"Unfortunately, we do not know how many acres were harvested," said Kent Willett, Oregon state specialist with the USDA's Farm Service Agency.

The numbers, calculated using geographic information system (GIS) analysis of the fire area, are based on farmers' reports to the USDA's Farm Service Agency, which maintains records of what was planted. They paint a clearer picture of what was at stake in the fire. Wheat, grass and fallow made up the vast majority of

crops. About 23,551 acres of grazing grass were within the fire's perimeter.

The fire hit wheat farmers hard. Roughly 100 farms grow wheat in Wasco County, where wheat made up more than 12,000 acres of planted crops within the Substation Fire perimeter. Wheat makes up more than 90 percent of farmland in the area and harvest season was just beginning when the fire erupted.

"Every single neighbor lost something in this fire," Cynthia Kortge, a Wasco County resident, told OPB. "Every single one."



Fox-12 Oregon via AP

In photo taken from video provided by Fox-12 Oregon a fast-spreading wildfire moves through Dufur on Wednesday. The fire forced mandatory evacuations in the north central Oregon community.

Dufur wildfire nearly triples in size; threatens structures

PORTLAND (AP) — A new blaze in north-central Oregon nearly tripled in size overnight and Thursday threatened 172 homes.

The fire near the town of Dufur spread to more than 23 square miles and was 5 percent contained in the afternoon.

The Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office says some structures have burned and at least 400 people have been told to evacuate.

The fire, caused by humans rather than lightning, began Wednesday afternoon. By nightfall, Gov. Kate Brown declared it a conflagration, which authorizes the fire marshal to mobilize state-wide resources.

It's the third major wildfire in the area this summer. One scorched 125 square miles and killed a man.

After an unusually warm July, firefighters caught a break with cooler temperatures Thursday.



Fox-12 Oregon via AP

In this photo taken from video provided by Fox-12 Oregon, a structure is engulfed in flames from a fast-spreading wildfire near Dufur, Ore., Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018. The fire forced mandatory evacuations in the north central Oregon community.

Officer involved in militia leader's death named in court

PORTLAND (AP) — A state police officer accidentally revealed in court Tuesday the name of one of the officers who fatally shot a militia leader who participated in the armed takeover of an Oregon wildlife refuge.

The officer's name slipped out this week during the trial of indicted FBI agent W. Joseph Astarita, who is accused of lying about firing shots toward Robert "LaVoy" Finicum's truck, *The Oregonian/OregonLive* reported.

Astarita has pleaded not guilty.

Authorities have concealed names of the officers involved in the shooting for more than two years citing concerns about threats from militias.

Oregon law enforcement officials ruled the shooting justified.

During the trial, the officers involved were being identified as "Officer 1" and "Officer 1."

State police SWAT officer Bob Olson accidentally identified Officer 1 by

his last name and rank on Tuesday.

People who were involved in or supported the occupation of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge began circulating the officer's name and photo online that night. Several threats toward the officer followed.

Finicum's widow, Jeanette, and Ammon Bundy have spoken out against these actions.

Bundy, the occupation's lead organizer, told supporters to consider that the officer was following orders

and had been told by federal officials that their group was dangerous.

"I pray for him and hope he can see what he is doing," Bundy wrote. "He is a brainwashed man who has been fed lies his entire adult life about what it really is to defend freedom."

The occupiers seized the refuge in 2016 to protest the imprisonment of two Oregon ranchers.

Astarita's trial is expected to last several weeks.

Brown-Nike deal draws complaint from Portland resident

PORTLAND (AP) — The Oregon Department of Justice will investigate a Portland man's complaint about an apparent deal by Gov. Kate Brown, Nike and public employee unions to keep an initiative off the ballot.

The union-backed proposal would have required Nike and other large companies to disclose tax payments and other closely held business details.

The unions later decided not to proceed. Around the same time, Nike donated \$100,000 to a political action committee which

is expected to campaign against two tax initiatives on the November ballot opposed by Brown and the unions.

Richard Leonetti filed the complaint July 24 and it was first reported by Oregon Public Broadcasting.

His letter said the arrangement violated a state law against paying to hinder an initiative. He wrote that the Legislature passed the election law in question "to prohibit the payment of money in exchange for withdrawing initiatives, and if this practice is allowed then surely there will be

a flood of initiatives filed with the sole motivation of securing payments to certain PACs or organizations in exchange for withdrawing initiatives."

The complaint was submitted to the Secretary of State's office. It referred the matter to the Oregon Department of Justice to investigate — standard protocol.

Representatives for the unions and the governor's campaign told *The Oregonian/OregonLive* that the complaint has no merit. Nike declined comment.

Last month, Brown's

re-election campaign told OPB that she had brokered a deal with Nike and the public employee unions to keep the corporate transparency initiative off the ballot.

But the unions disagree with that characterization. They said they dropped their initiative in order to focus on defeating the two anti-tax initiatives.

"It was an internal decision," said Joe Baessler, political director for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. "We didn't withdraw the measure because of Nike."

EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

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333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed major holidays

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Single copy price:
\$1 Tuesday through Friday, \$1.50 Saturday

Circulation Manager:
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AccuWeather Forecast

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly sunny and pleasant	Mostly sunny and beautiful	Nice with sun mixing with clouds	Mostly sunny	Hot with plenty of sun

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

81°	54°	83°	57°	89°	59°	95°	62°	99°	67°
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HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

85°	57°	87°	57°	93°	61°	100°	62°	103°	65°
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ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	90°	66°
Normals	90°	60°
Records	107° (1898)	40° (1897)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m.

0.00"	
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.02"
Year to date	6.49"
Last year to date	11.30"
Normal year to date	7.97"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	91°	60°
Normals	90°	59°
Records	104° (1965)	44° (1987)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m.

0.00"	
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.01"
Year to date	5.10"
Last year to date	6.59"
Normal year to date	5.93"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	5:41 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:21 p.m.
Moonrise today	11:51 p.m.
Moonset today	12:29 p.m.

Last New First Full
Aug 4 Aug 11 Aug 18 Aug 26

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today	Sat.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Astoria	66 56 c	69 54 pc
Baker City	84 45 s	83 49 s
Bend	78 44 s	79 47 s
Brookings	67 52 pc	63 51 pc
Burns	83 40 s	82 44 s
Enterprise	78 44 s	77 47 s
Eugene	78 51 pc	86 49 pc
Heppner	78 53 s	81 55 s
Hermiston	85 57 s	87 57 s
John Day	81 50 s	81 52 s
Klamath Falls	80 41 pc	80 42 pc
La Grande	80 48 s	81 48 s
Meacham	76 44 s	78 46 s
Medford	86 56 s	88 57 s
Newport	64 52 pc	64 53 pc
North Bend	68 54 pc	66 55 pc
Ontario	90 61 s	86 60 s
Pasco	85 55 s	87 54 s
Pendleton	81 54 s	83 57 s
Portland	75 58 sh	82 59 pc
Redmond	80 41 s	83 46 s
Salem	78 57 pc	85 55 pc
Spokane	79 55 pc	80 58 s
Ukiah	76 44 s	76 45 s
Vancouver	72 56 sh	79 56 pc
Walla Walla	83 60 s	85 63 s
Yakima	83 50 pc	85 54 s

WORLD CITIES

	Today	Sat.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Beijing	98 78 s	97 79 s
Hong Kong	92 83 t	92 82 t
Jerusalem	83 69 s	85 68 s
London	89 66 pc	84 61 pc
Mexico City	72 57 t	70 55 t
Moscow	84 63 pc	82 62 pc
Paris	95 68 s	91 67 s
Rome	89 73 t	89 72 t
Seoul	96 80 s	93 81 s
Sydney	73 51 s	68 46 s
Tokyo	93 79 s	91 80 s

WINDS

	Today	Saturday
(in mph)	Boardman	WSW 8-16
	Pendleton	WSW 8-16

UV INDEX TODAY

2 4 7 7 4 2

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National Summary: A swath of flooding downpours and thunderstorms will continue to affect the Southeast and Appalachians and spread to the Atlantic coast today. Storms will rattle the northern Plains and dot the Rockies.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 114° in Thermal, Calif. Low 33° in Walden, Colo.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today	Sat.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Albuquerque	90 66 t	94 69 pc
Atlanta	82 70 t	87 72 pc
Memphis	92 71 s	91 74 pc
Miami	89 79 t	89 77 sh
Milwaukee	77 67 s	91 74 sh
Minneapolis	87 72 s	82 69 t
Nashville	91 70 pc	93 73 pc
New Orleans	89 76 pc	88 78 pc
New York City	84 72 pc	82 74 sh
Oklahoma City	93 70 s	92 73 pc
Omaha	96 74 s	87 71 t
Philadelphia	87 72 t	88 73 sh
Phoenix	109 90 pc	110 89 s
Portland, ME	80 67 r	76 65 t
Providence	90 71 pc	80 69 t
Raleigh	83 72 t	89 72 pc
Salt Lake City	90 61 t	82 56 pc
San Diego	95 59 pc	92 56 s
Sacramento	95 60 pc	95 59 s
St. Louis	94 73 s	94 72 s
Salt Lake City	93 66 s	90 65 s
San Francisco	81 71 s	81 70 pc
San Jose	80 74 pc	71 51 pc
Seattle	73 58 pc	79 59 pc
Las Vegas	107 87 s	109 85 s
Little Rock	92 67 s	91 71 pc
Los Angeles	88 70 s	87 69 pc
Washington, DC	83 72 t	89 74 pc
Wichita	96 73 s	92 74 pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.