

Fire: crews now in mop-up mode

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By Wednesday of this week, fire crews were expecting to have the fire 100 percent contained. On Tuesday many of the crews that had been on the fire were being released. They were heading to other fires, or home to rest.

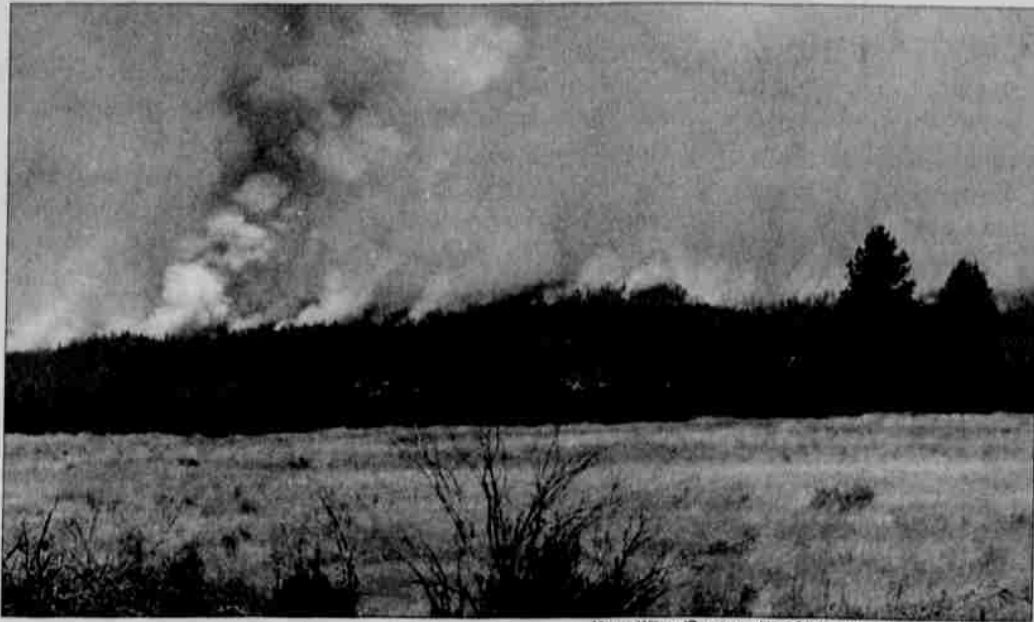
The crews that remained on the scene were in the fire mop-up mode. On Tuesday there were about 500 people on the fire. Earlier, when the blaze was not contained, there were close to 700 personnel.

The Log Springs fire blackened just under 14,000 acres. The fire was human caused, but it was not determined whether the blaze was a matter of arson, or an accident, according to Log Springs Fire Command.

During the hottest time of the fire, roads, including Highway 9 to Kah-Nee-Ta, were closed, and about 20 homes were voluntarily evacuated. By Monday all the roads were open again, and the residents were back at their homes.

Total cost of fighting the Log Springs fire is estimated at \$3.65 million. Funding comes from the federal government through the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

A burned area emergency rehabilitation (BAER) team is now working with the BIA to prepare a plan to mitigate erosion and other environmental damage caused by the fire and the suppression activities.



Nancy Wilson/Courtesy of Log Springs Fire Command, Earl Cordes



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Above, the Log Springs fire blackens acreage in the area of Simnasho. At left is the GeoVisions Mobile Command Center, which has been working on fire prevention and suppression, and other natural resources projects.

fire, the hundreds of fire fighters consumed 67,200 bottles of water, 22,200 half-pints of milk, 11,000 cups of coffee, 32,118 pounds of potatoes, and more than 6,100 sack lunches.

At its peak fire camp was nearly 900 individuals strong, with hundreds of tents and more than 250 vehicles parked on a 10-acre meadow west of Highway 26.

This work, coupled with careful and thorough fire crew mop-up operations, are designed to leave the burned area with the best possible post-fire landscape.

The fire camp for the Log Springs blaze was just past the Mill Creek Bridge. This information was provided by the camp: In the first week of the

Over 430 artifacts recovered

Ancient Indian items seized from residence

BLOOMFIELD, N.M. (AP) - More than 430 Indian artifacts ranging up to thousands of years old have been seized from a home here in what one agent describes as "the single largest recovery of my career."

U.S. Bureau of Land Management investigator R. Tracy said he has been a federal officer for 10 years.

In a case reminiscent of a Tony Hillerman novel, hundreds of stone tools, including arrow points, cutting edges, cookware and other trade items were recovered from the home of David Major, 38, investigators said.

"Right now we've counted 438 artifacts and we're still working our way through the evidence," Tracy said.

Among objects recovered was a rare and somewhat damaged lidded pot found with blue and purple Spanish trade beads believed to be from the 1700s. Also found with the pot were decorative seashells and a Folsom arrow point used for

bison hunting 7,000 years ago. "In terms of sheer numbers, this is the single largest recovery in my career," Tracy said.

If the items were taken from federal or American Indian lands, that could be a violation of the U.S. Archaeological Resource Protection Act, he said.

Items were found throughout the house, with the bulk of them stored in Major's bedroom, Tracy said. Many artifacts were wrapped in small individual clear plastic bags.

The discovery was made as a result of a traffic stop July 12.

Farmington police arrested Clinton Ferrier, 31, of Farmington, on five counts of commercial burglary and related charges after he was caught with

a large amount of copper wiring taken from Saulsbury Electric, Detective Sgt. Ken Walker said.

As the investigation progressed, police suspected Ferrier and Major allegedly committed 10 commercial burglaries, Walker said.

Police later obtained a search warrant for Major's home, where the artifacts were found

July 25. Charges related to the artifacts are pending.

However, Farmington police charged Major on Thursday with four counts of commercial burglary, receiving stolen property, tampering with evidence, possession of burglary tools and breaking and entering.

He was booked into the San Juan County jail on \$100,000 cash bond.

Team sets brand record

A team from Warm Springs are Edison Yazzie, Calvin Bahe, Jesse Reece and Casey Greene. The competition was held Thursday night at the county fairgrounds rodeo arena. Congratulations to the winning team.

The branding team members

Free clinic teaches roping

There will be a free roping clinic at the Warm Springs Rodeo Grounds on Wednesday, August 18, from 6 p.m. till 8 p.m. Beginners will learn basic roping skills. Intermediate ropers will take their skills up a

notch. Bring a rope, and have lots of fun. Prizes will be awarded. Burgers and hotdogs served at 5:30 p.m. Call OSU Extension for more information, 553-3238. Clinic is taught by Edison Yazzie and friends.

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Fish market

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Because of the high cost - Matthews estimates construction costs to be \$5 million - the Columbia River tribes would look to other federal grants to help pay for it. Such a processing center could enable the tribes to develop specialty products such as smoked salmon, extending the time that a fish caught during the designated seasons could be sold throughout the year. Additional funding would include staffing, marketing, specialty product development, food safety and business training.

"We are looking at ways that we can fund these activities," Matthews said. "It's not only an economic venture, but a cultural tradition."

A site for the proposed processing center hasn't been determined, but it would likely be somewhere on tribal fishing grounds between Bonneville and McNary dams.

(By AP and Dave McMechan.)

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