

# Jack Fire suppression underway

ROSEBURG, Ore. – Firefighters are actively suppressing a wildfire near Steamboat, approximately 30 miles east of Glide, Oregon on the North Umpqua Ranger District. The Jack Fire, which is currently estimated at 900 acres, was reported on Monday, July 5, 2021, at 5 p.m. and is burning in grass and timber east of Jack Creek Road (Forest Service road 4713) and west of Jack Creek. Douglas Forest Protective Association (DFPA) and local resources utilized smoke detection cameras located on Mt. Scott, near Glide to isolate the point of ignition, as a result, firefighters and local resources started initial attack immediately upon locating the wildfire.

The fire was very active throughout the afternoon and moderated down during the night. A section of state highway 138, the Rogue-Umpqua Scenic Byway, or locally known as Diamond Lake Highway was closed by Oregon department of Transportation (ODOT) between mile post (MP) 40 (Steamboat) and MP 47 (Dry Creek Store). A forest closure order will soon be in effect. The cause of the fire is under investigation. Numerous resources aided in initial attack efforts including mutual aid from Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) as well as support from a type 3 inter-

agency crew, which arrived last night. Resources currently assigned include nine engines, two hand crews, three water tenders, three heavy lift helicopters, one light helicopter, three air tankers, and two fixed wings (with lead plane). The health and safety of the public and wildland fire fighters is a top priority. Hot and dry conditions are expected to persist, so the public is asked to be careful and stay clear of the incident. Fire danger remains “High” and public use restrictions are in effect. For more information on the feasibility study, call 540-830-3806 or 541-670-0812.

# SLCFR issues fire danger warning

On June 30, South Lane County Fire and Rescue set the fire danger level at ‘high.’ High fire danger level restricts mowing of dead and or cured grass to before 10 a.m. and after 8 p.m. It also places restrictions on smoking, open fires, power saw usage, working with metal, operation of motorized vehicles, bans use of all illegal fireworks, and re-

stricts where the use of legal fireworks can be used. Go to South Lane County Fire and Rescue’s website at southlanefire.org to view all the restrictions in place due to the High Fire Danger designation.

southlanefire.org to view all the restrictions in place due to the High Fire Danger designation.



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## VISIT from A1

Legion priorities in the coming years. Of special concern to the American Legion, as well as other veteran’s groups throughout the country, is declining membership as so many of our WWII and “cold war” era veterans are passing away. The American Legion peaked in membership in 1946 with over 3.3 million members, which has declined to about 1.7 million members this year. Like most veterans who enjoy sharing their favorite “sea stories,” Commander Oxford also spoke about his travels overseas as the National Commander. This included being hosted at the Taiwan Presidential Office Building by Taiwanese President Tsai Yingwen and several of her cabinet ministers, and a visit with the Governor-General of Australia, David Hurley, at the Government House in the capital of Canberra. Governor-General Hurley even took Commander

Oxford and his team on a drive in his electric golf cart to see kangaroos. Following introductions and speeches, everyone enjoyed a barbeque beef lunch catered by Hole In The Wall Barbeque, during which visiting leadership was able to spend time talking with individual members of the post and visit the newly completed tiny-houses for veteran behind the post. After their two-hour visit, Commander Oxford and his team loaded up in their vehicles and headed north to visit McMinnville Post 21 before wrapping up their tour of Oregon. During his remaining two months in office, Commander Oxford and his team plan to visit Legion Posts and events in seven more states. American Legion National Commanders and their teams regularly spend about 330 days a year traveling to visit the over 12,000 American Legion posts around the country

and abroad, advocating on behalf of the American Legion. The American Legion is the nation’s leading advocate for a strong national defense, patriotic youth programs, Americanism and fair benefits for members, veterans, and their families. Its members are dedicated to the motto “Veterans Strengthening America.” Oregon is home to 116 American Legion Posts and nearly 13,500 Legionnaires. All veterans who have served honorably since December 7, 1941, are eligible for membership. For more about The American Legion Department of Oregon, visit www.orlegion.org.

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Leading the delegation was the American Legion National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford from North Carolina, whose unprecedented two year term will be ending in about two months at the upcoming American Legion National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. As a result of the pandemic lockdowns last year, the 2020 national convention was canceled and the American Legion National leadership remained in place for an additional year. Furthermore, all Legion travel was halted for about six months.

Accompanying the Commander was the National Commander Aide, Larry Cline, also from North Carolina, and National Vice Commander and former Department of Oregon Commander (1996-1997) Rob Liebenow. State level leadership personnel joining them on the tour included the only former American Legion National Commander (2016-2017) from Oregon, Charles Schmidt, Commander of Department of Oregon and past National Commanders Aide (2016-2017) Don Weber, Department of Oregon Adjutant Flynn Phillips, and past Department of Oregon Commander (2008-2009) and past National Sergeant-at-Arms (2016-2017) Kevin Owens.

Lane County commissioner Heather Buch and Cottage Grove Mayor and former Cottage Grove Legion Commander Jeff Gowling were also in attendance. During their visit to the Cottage Grove Post, Commander Oxford spoke with the local Legion and American Legion Family members in attendance about his experiences as the National Commander, how the American Legion is contributing to the leadership development of American youth through multiple Legion-sponsored youth programs, and American

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