

Thunderstorms cause 29 fires, Alder Creek blaze consumes 150 acres

Wednesday's thunderstorm activity caused outbreaks of fire in a four day period in Wheeler County, the largest a

150 acre blaze Friday at Adler Creek ten miles north and west of Spray. Forest Service firefighters

contained an acre and a half blaze at Ditch Creek in the Heppner Ranger District Thursday, according to Fire

Management Officer Larry Bowman. Eight firefighters had the blaze under control Thursday.

There were 29 lightning-caused fires on state lands from Wednesday to Sunday, according to Jerry Brewer,

Assistant Unit Forester, State Department of Forestry, Fossil. The 150 acre Adler Creek fire was first reported at 2

p.m. Friday while state firefighters were fighting a 15 and a 60 acre blaze. By 7:30 p.m. that evening,

the estimated 90 firefighters almost had a fire trail around 95 percent of the fire. Brewer said four plane loads of fire retardant from Redmond and La Grande slowed down the juniper and grassfire before it reached timber and a house beyond the trees. Fifty of the firefighters were volunteers from the Kinzua Corporation. By three or four a.m., the fire was fully under control.

The blaze was first spotted by two State lookouts at Snowboard and Rencheria.

Also on Friday, State firefighters contained a 60 acre blaze with assistance from two helitack crews and 8 smoke jumpers and a 15 acre blaze. Both were in grass and juniper.

There were 23 fires burning in small acreage Thursday with the majority being manned by 70 firefighters. Three fire units came from the Prineville area and Brewer reported in the early afternoon, the blazes 75 percent controlled. Kinzua Corporation volunteered 12 employees.

A helicopter was used in the initial attack on the fires which began with the thunderstorm activity about 6 p.m. Wednesday. And two Forest Service pumpers were used to dampen the blazes.

On Monday, Brewer said district workers were re-checking the smothered blazes to make sure they were out.

The Heppner Ranger District was able to send five firefighters to the Shaw Mountain fire at La Grande Wednesday and those employees have returned. Bowman told the Gazette.

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for firewood and more for food, thus increasing the nutritional value of their diets.

The stove is now used in 10 countries—Guatemala, Indonesia, Nepal, Mexico, Honduras, the Republic of South Africa, Swaziland, Botswana, Lesotho and Upper Volta.

In Guatemala, the Choqui Experimental Station is monitoring 1,000 stoves that are in daily use. In Indonesia, that country's equivalent of the U.S. Peace Corps is training 2,400 persons in Lorena technology.

Evans returned last month from Nepal, and he says a reforestation scheme there could result in the construction and use of about 100,000 stoves in the next four years.

The Aprovecho Institute, a non-profit international research group, also trains people to build the stove and promote its use. And Evans says the Peace Corps, Volunteers in Asia, and most recently, the World Bank, are interested in the stove.

Evans also plans to develop similar cookstoves and heating stoves for use in the Pacific Northwest.

"We want to develop cheap, owner-built stoves that will have a higher energy efficiency than any comparable stoves available anywhere in the world," he says.

Evans has written an 80-page booklet, "Lorena Owner-Built Stoves," that can be obtained by sending \$3 to Appropriate Technology Project, Volunteers in Asia, Box 4543, Stanford, Calif. 94305.

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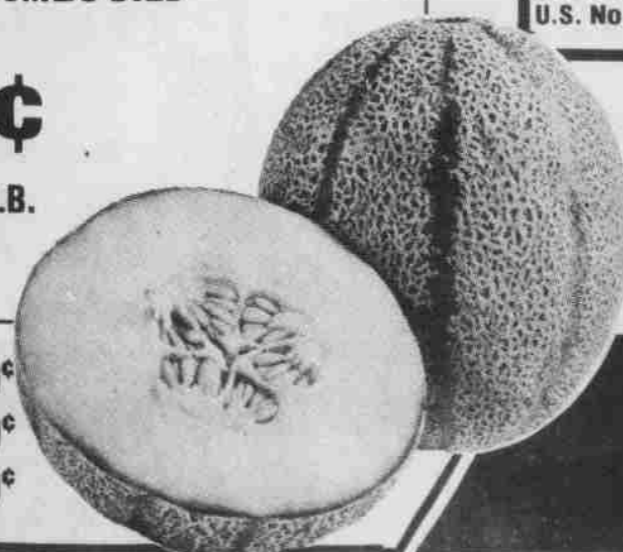
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