



NEWS RELEASE

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Bridgeport Ranger District
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For Immediate Release on August 19, 2008 - Stop Date is August 30, 2008

Sliver Creek Fire Began Sunday West of Marine Training Center

Bridgeport, California...A lightning-caused wildland fire began Sunday, August 17, 2008, on the Bridgeport Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest at around 4 p.m. The Silver Creek Fire is located approximately one mile west of the U.S. Marine Mountain Warfare Training Center (MWTC) in Mono County California, and four miles west of the intersection of US Highway 395 and CA Highway 108 at Sonora Junction. Firefighters made excellent progress last night, and the fire is now 45 percent contained, which means almost half of the fire has a hand line around its perimeter. Strong winds will challenge firefighters today.



The fire has burned approximately 650 acres in this both wooded and open sage area between the Wolf Creek and Silver Creek drainages. It's presently burning in a northwest direction today. A Type 2 Incident Management Team will take over command of the fire tomorrow at 6 a.m. Such highly skilled teams enable the local firefighters to provide important initial attack resources to new fires that may start.

Highway 108 is open, however could close if the fire causes unsafe driving conditions. A Forest Order, to ensure the safety of its visitors, will soon close the area from the

MWTC Base area north to Silver Creek Meadows following Forest Service Road 059, and west to Sonora Pass following Highway 108. This area is a popular hunting spot this time of year.

Local Bridgeport District and surrounding area firefighters, including 19 engines and 298 personnel, are on the scene. Four air tankers and three helicopters are also providing water and retardant drops. Four bulldozers are assisting the firefighters in creating fire breaks.

Today's weather is expected to be sunny and cooler with temperatures in the high 70s, with south winds of up to 15 miles per hour, and possible gusts to 25 miles per hour. Resource specialists will be paying particular notice to the fire's effects on goshawk, Lahontan Cutthroat trout in Wolf and Silver Creeks, and the mountain yellow-legged frog, along with arborglyphs, or tree carvings, in the aspen groves. The fire is burning within a planned District fuels reduction project area. For further information on this release, please contact Keith Whaley at 760-932-5821, or Paul Koehler at 760-932-5812.

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