



News Release

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
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For Immediate Release on August 20, 2008 - Stop Date is October 30, 2008

Fire in Jarbidge Wilderness Burns with Benefits

Elko, Nevada...The East Slide Rock Ridge Fire, burning in the remote Jarbidge Wilderness, is proving itself useful in getting bug-infested, dead-and-dying trees off the landscape. It's estimated that half the trees in the fire area are either dead, diseased or have reached the end of their natural lifespan. Fire is playing its role in nature's cycle.

Started by lightning August 8 and discovered August 9, the fire is located about 15 miles southeast of Jarbidge, Nevada. The fire perimeter is now estimated at 3,245 acres, with islands of unburned vegetation, creating a mosaic effect. Yesterday, fire crews monitoring the fire activity noted that winds continued to push the fire down the East Fork Jarbidge River to the north. The fire also began moving up spur drainages to the east and west.

To date, the fire has pushed past an old corral located in a moist area. Crews have not yet visited the site to survey fire effects. As of last evening, the fire was within 1,000 feet of old mining cabins in the Cougar Creek drainage. There is no threat to human life or private property.

An Interagency Incident Management Team, specializing in managing fires in remote areas, arrived last evening to assist the Elko area Forest Service in managing the East Slide Rock Ridge Fire. The team, from the Great Basin and headed by Larry Svalberg, will continue active management of the fire, while the fire continues to play its role as a natural component of the ecosystem.

Svalberg's team will continue to monitor fire intensity and spread, moisture content of vegetation, and local weather conditions to predict where and how the fire will burn. That information will help the team plan for current and future management actions.

A Closure Order remains in effect for the area immediately surrounding the fire until conditions allow for safe public access. Additional closures are likely in the north half of the wilderness. The south portion of the Jarbidge Wilderness area remains open to the public.

Fire activity increases during dry, hot, and windy afternoons, making smoke from this fire visible in Elko and other surrounding communities. The safety of firefighters and the public remains the top priority. For further information, call 775-778-6105.

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