



News Release

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
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For Immediate Release on August 21, 2008 – Stop Date is October 30, 2008

East Slide Rock Ridge Fire in Jarbidge Wilderness Gains Acres

Elko, Nevada...Yesterday the East Slide Rock Ridge Fire, burning in the remote Jarbidge Wilderness, grew to an estimated 8,400 acres due to winds causing significant fire movement up Slide Creek to the east/northeast. The fire went beyond the wilderness boundary a short distance, and is in the head of Canyon Creek.

Today fire managers are concentrating efforts to check further eastward spread of the fire and keep it corralled within the wilderness boundary. A five-person crew and division supervisor are currently working on the east flank. Four 20-person crews, along with engines and dozers, will arrive in the next two days to aid in the efforts. Retardant drops will begin this morning to help check the fire's eastward movement outside the wilderness. Helicopter water drops may be used in the Cougar Creek and Fall Creek drainages within the wilderness to slow fire spread to the northwest.

In addition to the aggressive actions on the east flank of the East Slide Rock Ridge Fire, managers are monitoring the fire's activity, its intensity and spread, within the wilderness boundary. They note the moisture content of the vegetation and local weather conditions to predict where and how the fire will burn in order to plan current and future management actions.

The East Slide Rock Ridge Fire started August 8 when a lightning storm moved through the area. It was discovered August 9. The fire is located about 15 miles southeast of Jarbidge, Nevada. Within the approximate 8,400-acre fire perimeter, islands of unburned vegetation create a quilt-like mosaic on the landscape. Many of the acres burning are "cleaning up" large numbers of insect-killed trees within the wilderness.

A Closure Order remains in effect for the area. The area of the closure will be expanded. Fire managers are working with Elko area Forest Service managers to determine what size the closure needs to be to ensure public safety.

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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