



# CANYON COMPLEX FIRE UPDATE



**Location:** Plumas National Forest      **Start Date:** June 22, 2008      **Update:** July 7, 2008  
**California Incident Management Team # 3 (Incident Commander – Jeanne Pincha-Tulley)**  
**Acres:** 18,450      **Resources:** 1,210 personnel      **Containment:** 64%

**Current Situation:** While the stable air mass holds smoke in much of Plumas County, yesterday's overall calm conditions helped fire fighters make good progress on priority fires. With 22 fires contained and 8 remaining uncontained, on the troublesome Belden Fire very good progress was made to secure it by fresh hotshot crews and supporting firefighters as a small burnout was completed on the fires south flank. Fuel was reduced through this judicious application of fire to the Highway 70 corridor between Chips and Indian Creeks. Today, work will continue on the upper part of the 291 acre fire using helicopters if visibility is adequate and by firefighters on the ground to cool hot spots in other flanks. On Sunday, fire managers took advantage of the opportunity to take a more direct suppression mode, and at this point will not need to do a larger anticipated burnout. The larger burnout remains an option if containment is not realized on the current fire perimeter. There is much work remaining for firefighters at this extremely steep site. The goal is to reduce fuels, secure the fire quickly and reopen Highway 70 in conjunction with fire managers at the Butte Complex who are battling two fires adjacent to the highway. These fires are difficult to fully contain, as was exhibited last night when strong down canyon winds fanned flames on the Pit Fire in the canyon of the Butte Complex.

A voluntary evacuation, issued by the Plumas County Sheriff, remains in place for the west end of Belden in the vicinity of Indian Creek RV Park and the immediate area surrounding Maggie's Mapleleaf. A Sheriff's advisement is in place for the Belden community south of Highway 70. The Fire Teams will work with the Sheriff to provide advice on potential danger to the community that will help determine the best time to lift the evacuations notices. Infrared flights Monday morning showed many hot areas on the Belden Fires west flank.

Elsewhere containment efforts on the second and third priority fires, the South and Frey, continued with crews conducting a third consecutive day of extensive burnout along the South Fires northeast flank and the Frey's north flank. The goal is to minimize impacting private land with suppression efforts, balanced with the challenge of difficult terrain and dry fuels. The fire continues to hold along the Middle Fork Feather River and slow but steady progress to build firelines and burnout fuel under controlled methods is showing results, even in very tough terrain and conditions.

A big concern for today is the forecasted hot and dry conditions which could exacerbate fire behavior and intensity.

Highway 70 remains closed to the public, but open to residents from the junction of Highways 89/70 (Greenville Y) **to the Caribou Road** (east of Belden). No through traffic is permitted from the Greenville Y to Big Bend road. For information on State road closures, call CalTrans information: 1-800-427-7623. Road conditions are subject to change at any time.

**Closures:** There has been no change to the closure orders issued to protect visitors in areas of active fire. The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) is now closed from the Plumas National Forest northern boundary to the LaPorte -Quincy Hwy (to the NE of Little Grass Valley Reservoir). A Forest Order has also closed road 22N94 at its intersections with 22N27 (west of Little Grass Valley Reservoir). An area closure covers public land, including trails, generally bounded by: (1) the North and Middle Forks of the Feather River toward the Pacific Crest Trail, the Bucks Lake Wilderness; and (2) areas surrounding the Cold Fire in eastern Plumas County. Specific campgrounds closures include: Milsap Bar, Little North Fork, Rogers Cow Camp, Feather Falls, and Hartman Bar. Please refer to maps and descriptions posted on the Forest website <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas/>. Residents are reminded that wood cutting and fire restrictions are still in place across the entire Plumas National Forest.

**Weather:** The forecast for stable air, with little mixing, will likely keep smoke in the area. Similar to when the fires first broke out, this is a mixed blessing. While it helps slow the movement of fires, it severely limits helicopter operations. For an update of local air quality conditions, visit [www.countyofplumas.com](http://www.countyofplumas.com), for Butte County: [www.bcaqmd.org](http://www.bcaqmd.org).

**Events:** Private businesses and resorts in forest communities, including facilities around Bucks Lake, remain open. With the Sierra Music Festival in Quincy ending, travelers may see some heavy traffic on highways today and they should be watchful for fire traffic.

**Fire information:** internet [www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas); phone (530) 283-7882, 7883, or 7884. **Fire Information Center hours are 7am to 7pm.** **Fire protection information:** <http://plumasfiresafe.org>; **Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) Information:** [www.pcta.org](http://www.pcta.org)

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