

# NEWS RELEASE

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION



## Umpqua National Forest

2900NW Stewart Parkway , Roseburg OR [www.fs.fed.us/umpqua](http://www.fs.fed.us/umpqua)

Contact: Cheryl Caplan, 541-430-5124 or [ccaplan@fs.fed.us](mailto:ccaplan@fs.fed.us)

September 9, 2011  
8:00 a.m.

### *Fire Update for Umpqua National Forest*

**Status:** Lightning strikes from a Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> thunderstorm combined with high temperatures and a very unstable atmosphere resulted in over 50 confirmed fires on the Umpqua National Forest. As of Thursday, crews responded to most fires. No fires are confirmed yet from lightning on Sept. 8. Firefighters will continue responding to new fires and staffing confirmed fires.

**Predicted Weather:** The National Weather Service has issued a Fire Weather Watch for the Umpqua National Forest through Sunday evening with continued hot, dry weather and a chance of thunderstorms Friday afternoon and evening. Hot and unstable weather conditions are expected to continue through the weekend. Winds from the north to northeast are anticipated with possible erratic and gusty winds to 50 mph with thunderstorms.

**At Risk:** The historic Garwood Lookout on the Diamond Lake Ranger District (photo attached)

**Resources Assigned:** 12 20-person hand crews (includes 2 Hot Shot crews), 7 engines, 2 dozers, 7 water tenders, and 1 helicopter. Douglas Forest Protective Association is assisting with their helicopter. A Type II Incident Team is ordered for Skookum Complex, which includes nearly 20 fires on the Diamond Lake Ranger District.

**Location:** 35 fires on Diamond Lake Ranger District  
15 fires on North Umpqua Ranger District  
2 fires on Tiller Ranger District

**Size:** The largest is the Skookum Complex, which includes nearly 20 fires on the Diamond Lake Ranger District, about 6 miles west of Diamond Lake. The Garwood Fire, at 80 acres as of Sept. 8, is the largest in the Skookum Complex. The next largest fire is a 10-acre blaze near Rattlesnake Mountain in the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness. Several fires are under 5 acres. The rest are under an acre in size.

**Percent Contained:** 0%

**Date Started:** Lightning strikes on September 7, 2011

###