



Yosemite Fires – Update #29 – August 7, 2009

There was very low fire activity yesterday due to the cold temperatures and light snow in the Tuolumne Meadows and high country near the Wildcat fire perimeter. **Fire managers were able to obtain more accurate mapping of the fire by a reconnaissance and GPS flight by Helicopter 551: 640 acres have burned.** This is a reduction from previously posted estimated acres. The lightning caused fire continues to burn on the north and south sides of the Tuolumne River through Red Fir, Jeffery Pine and brush on very steep terrain. The low fire activity will continue through the weekend until temperatures begin to rise next week as a predicted high pressure pattern develops over the Sierras. The most active flanks are: to the northeast toward Register Creek; the west flank; and to the southeast, along the bottom of the river canyon. Three Wildland fire modules are spiked out near the fire perimeter to manage this fire: Yosemite Crews 6 and 7, and Stanislaus National Forest Calaveras Module. This fire is located in one of the most remote, steep and rugged wilderness areas of the Park. Due to the steepness of the canyon, the potential for rock and timber roll-out and other significant safety concerns, the primary strategy will be indirect action until the fire finds its way to more open and accessible terrain.

Trail closures are in effect: The Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne from Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp to Pate Valley.

The course of action and strategy continues to keep the fire on the north side of the Tuolumne River. All responses continue to be considered for this wilderness wildfire. Values to be protected include the Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp, the Tuolumne River, trail systems and bridges, wildlife habitat and other wilderness and cultural resources. Periodic smoke may be visible from various locations within the Park, and the region. Other regional fires are nearing full containment and control.

Weather forecasters have predicted cooler temperatures through the weekend and then a warming trend beginning this weekend (Aug 8). Smoke impacts are minimal.

Wilderness Fire Unit; lightning caused fires:

Wildcat (37 56.208 x 119 29.418, 6300' to 8400' elevation, Tuolumne Co.) Since the start of this fire July 29, it has grown to 640 acres and continues to move northeast toward Register Creek, to the west and along the Tuolumne River.

The Grouse and Harden fires will continued to be patrolled due to hot spots within the perimeter of each these fires.

Regional fires: Reporting this fire in cooperation with the Stanislaus National Forest.

Knight (38.18 x -120.254, Stanislaus NF, Tuolumne Co.) As of today, the management of this fire has been turned back to the Stanislaus National Forest. All inquiries and information can be directed to Jerry Snider (209) 532-3671, ext. 244 or Pat Kaunert (209) 532-3671, ext 245; Stanislaus National Forest Public Affairs Office. Inciweb will continue to have information : www.inciweb.org.

Fire Yosemite Information: Please call 209/372-0480. **For Additional Information:** The park website, www.nps.gov/yose/fire; and, NPS Firenews: www.nps.gov/fire/public/pub_firenews.cfm