



Hay Creek Complex Daily Update July 25, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.



Cottonwood Fire: 15,234 acres, 0% contained | **Little Buck Fire:** 12,461 acres, 0% contained

Porcupine Ridge Fire: 79,225 acres, 99% contained

Hoag Fire: 50,224 acres, 99% contained | **Hopkin Fire:** 11,366 acres, 99% contained

Total Resources: 951 | Hand Crews: 25 | Engines: 53 | Dozers: 13

CONDON, Ore. – The Hoag, Hopkin and Porcupine Ridge fires are currently at 99 percent containment, allowing crews to focus on two new fires in the complex, the Cottonwood and Little Buck fires. Both started after a lightning storm passed over the area Wednesday night, followed by gusty winds and high temperatures that have fueled rapid growth.

Northwest Complex Incident Management Team 10 assumed command of the Little Buck Fire this morning, burning east of Shaniko and U.S. Highway 97, one day after the Cottonwood Fire was added to the complex. The team had originally planned to manage the Ten Mile Fire near Madras, Oregon, but as conditions changed, the higher-priority Little Buck Fire was assigned instead. Firefighters are working around the clock to secure these new starts, with more resources shifting to them as the other fires in the complex gain containment. Aerial resources have been flying their maximum allowable hours to support crews on the ground and slow fire spread.

On the Cottonwood Fire, firefighters held the fire on the south end and where earlier burning operations removed vegetation between Devils Butte Road and the fire's edge, strengthening it as a control line. On the west side, wind pushed the fire into and across the John Day River canyon, where steep terrain made it inaccessible by firefighters on the ground. Helicopters dropped water to slow fire spread while crews patrolled the far side of the river for hot spots. On the Little Buck Fire, fire continued burning toward the 2025 Black Rock Fire scar, where lighter, patchy fuels slowed spread to the east. However, fueled by gusty winds, the fire made a significant push to the south. On the Porcupine Ridge, Hoag and Hopkin fires, fire personnel patrolled and monitored for heat, with little to no hot spots remaining.

Today, firefighters will face dynamic and challenging conditions on the Cottonwood and Little Buck fires. On the Cottonwood Fire, firefighters will be identifying and implementing control actions across the John Day River to limit fire spread. On the Little Buck Fire, firefighting efforts will focus on reducing fire impacts to the values at risk, particularly the communities of Shaniko and Antelope. Crews may be forced to disengage if intense fire activity threatens their safety.

Weather: A Red Flag Warning is in effect today from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. for strong winds and low humidity. The day will be sunny, windy and very dry, with highs in the upper 80s to low 90s. West-to-northwest winds will pick up through the afternoon, gusting 30 to 40 mph, and will be strongest over the northern fires.

Evacuations: Level 1, 2 and 3 evacuations are in place and can change quickly especially with today's forecast conditions. For the most current evacuation information, visit the Gilliam, Wasco and Sherman County interactive evacuation map: <https://arcg.is/15vGXv7/>. Sign up to receive evacuation alerts at oralert.gov/.

Closures: Road closures are currently in place. As conditions are changing rapidly, check tripcheck.com/ for the most current information. The Bureau of Land Management has restrictions and temporary fire closures are in effect that can be viewed at blm.gov/programs/fire/regional-info/oregon-washington/fire-restrictions

Smoke: Wildfire smoke can change air quality quickly. Know your risk and plan ahead. Smoke forecasts and current conditions are available at wildlandfiresmoke.net/.

Fire Restrictions: Check current information at centraloregonfire.org/fire-restrictions/.

A **Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR)** exists over the Hay Creek Complex for the safety of firefighters and aircraft. This restriction includes the use of drones. If you fly, we can't.

For further information about the Hay Creek Complex, see the following resources:

Email: 2026.haycreekcomplex@firenet.gov | Phone: 541-901-8026, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Web: inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/orprd-hay-creek-complex | Facebook: facebook.com/HayCreekComplex2026