

U.S. FOREST SERVICE FIRE UPDATE

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

215 Melody Lane

Wenatchee, WA 98801

For immediate release: August 18, 2011 6:30 a.m.

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Tumwater Canyon Fire Grows Slowly Overnight

Leavenworth, Wash. — The Tumwater Canyon Fire grew to approximately 100 acres overnight. The Tumwater Canyon Fire is six miles north of the city of Leavenworth and is located on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee River Ranger District.

There are approximately 90 fire personnel assigned to the fire, including Forest Service Fire Crews from the Wenatchee River, Entiat, and Cle Elum Ranger Districts, Chelan County Fire Districts 3 and 9, with air support from the Forest Service and the Department of Natural Resources.

The fire is burning in steep, rugged terrain. It is burning in the Tumwater Canyon, south of the Wenatchee River Bridge and east of Highway 2 in a mix of grass, shrub and mixed conifer vegetation. The strategy today is to keep the fire out of private timber lands, protect resources, and ensure firefighter and public safety.

The Incident is now being managed by a Type 3 Incident Management Team with Randy Whitehall as Incident Commander.

For firefighter and public safety, the Washington State Patrol has temporarily closed Highway 2 from Coles Corner to Leavenworth. A detour has been set-up through the Chumstick Valley.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

For general fire information, contact the Wenatchee River Ranger District at 509.548.2558

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The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to State and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.