

The Egley Fire

by various authors, including

Mike
bear bait
Backcut
InciWeb
and others

Published by the Western Institute for Study of the Environment, Jan, 21, 2008

Entries begin **July 6, 2007**

Mike at SOS Forests: Some days there is hardly any lightning. Today is not one of those. Today lightning is striking from Canada to Mexico, California to Florida. The fire reports are starting to roll in at InciWeb.

Today, July 6th, the 2007 Fire Season shifted into high gear. You thought we'd already seen the worst? Just wait, and not for long.

July 7

Mike: Twenty-five new large fires have been reported nationwide today, so far.

The Sierra Nevada's got strafed with lightning Thursday and Friday. The Antelope Complex Fire in the Plumas NF is already over 11,000 acres. This fire is east of Taylorsville. The Inyo Complex Fire near Big Pine is over 12,000 acres. Containment efforts and evacuations are still getting underway.

In Oregon the Bartlett Mountain Fire, also ignited by lightning Friday, has now burned 7,500 acres along the Malheur River. Highway 20 between Buchanan and Juntura is closed. Backburning last night appears to have been successful, but the fire has been exhibiting extreme fire behavior, traveling over 5 miles in 3 hours yesterday.

July 9

National Fire News: The severity of the western fire season increased dramatically in the last three days, as thunderstorms ignited 1,500 new fires over a widespread geographic region. Firefighters did an excellent job of containing most of these new starts during initial attack over the weekend. Right now, 41 large fires are burning in 11 western states.

Mike: In Oregon the Egley Complex (Burns Fire Zone, Malheur National Forest) is now 11,305 acres at zero percent contained. This fire is 10 miles north of Riley and is burning in timber litter [???]. Numerous structures are threatened. Evacuations and road closures are in effect.

Again and again with the timber litter! Did we miss a meeting? Since when did "timber litter" become a description of forests, fuels, or of anything? Excuse me, Boise, but this kind of babble makes you look stupid. If you can't do any better than "timber litter," then you should bag the fuel descriptions altogether. Forests are not timber and they are not litter. Bunch this meaningless fireslang and report clear information!

July 10

Inciweb: The Egley Complex grew in size due to increasing temperatures and lower relative humidities. Late yesterday afternoon the southern end of one of the lightning-caused fires was pushed further south towards Highway 20 (east of Riley) and crossed the highway, closing the road. Approximately 10 acres of grass and brush burned before fire crews successfully lined the fire and stopped its southern progress. The fire continued to burn towards the east which prompted the Harney County Sheriffs department, in coordination with the fire management team, to evacuate rural residents west of Hines between the city limits and Sage Hen Hill. Residents bordering the city limits - at Highland Estates, the Dapple Gray subdivision and the Hines Mobile Park - were put on evacuation notice but not asked to leave their homes. Fire crews worked through the night in efforts to protect residential structures and to stop the eastern spread of the fire. State Highway 20 from mile post 114 to 125 has been reopened to the public between Hines and Riley, with an escort from a pilot car. The public can expect delays of up to 20 minutes and drivers are asked to drive slowly due to the heavy smoke in the area. Residents previously evacuated from their homes can return this morning but should remain on alert with the rest of the Burns/Hines community in case conditions change. As a precautionary measure, Harney County is planning to construct a wide dozer line around the outer-most city limits.

The State Fire Marshall has invoked the State's Conflagration Act which has released additional structural fire-fighting equipment and personnel to assist in the protection of the communities in and around Hines and Burns, OR. The Blue Team Task Force lead by Scott Magers as the Incident Commander from central Oregon (Bend, Sunriver, Redmond, and Black Butte Ranch) is now in the area and assigned to protecting structures along Highway 20.

There are three helicopters, 27 engines, 13 dozers, 18 water tenders, and 512 people assigned to the Egley Complex. Today fixed-wing air tankers will be dropping water and retardant in support of fire fighting activities. The Egley Complex is estimated at approximately 30,000 acres and is considered 3% contained. Better aerial mapping and increased fire behavior has led to an increase in the area estimated to be burned.

The Egley Complex is the Oregon/Washington region's highest priority for suppression, but firefighting resources have been hard to come by. The limited resources, increasingly dry fuels, high temperatures, and an extended burning period make every day a challenge for firefighters. Wind speed and direction remains the primary factor in growth and spread rate for

the Egley Complex. Additional dozers, engines, and air support have been ordered. Aside from the Burns/Hines community, several private residences, vacation cabins, fire lookout towers, outbuildings, livestock, ranches, and recreation sites are also threatened but no damages have been reported.

July 11

From Inciweb:

Egley Complex Size: 35,000 acres

Complex Containment: 15 percent

Personnel on Complex: 863

July 12

From Inciweb:

Egley Complex Size: 55,000

Complex Containment: 15 percent

Personnel on Complex: 1,176

July 13

Mike: The Egley Complex Fire north of Riley in eastern Oregon is now 83,200 acres (130 sq mi). What started out as a grass fire has now engaged brush, tree farms, and forests.

There are three sub-fires in the complex: the Silver Fire, 14,800 acres; the Bear Canyon Fire, 12,700 acres; and the Egley Fire, 55,700 acres. The total complex is reported to be 36% contained.

We don't mean to unfairly critical, but SOS Forest observers report that the 1,641 personnel on the Egley Fire may not be doing a very good job of it. The reports we have are that the locals are doing most of the work with their own equipment. That may be an overstatement, but that's what the reports we received said.

Those reports may also have some validity. There seem to be some staging issues on the Egley Fire. The most recent news update from InciWeb, produced by the Egley Information Center staffed by PNW Team 3 and ORCA Incident Management Teams, had this to say:

A base camp is being established at Allison Springs to minimize travel time and facilitate easier access to the Silver and Bear Canyon Fires in the West Zone. By this evening, approximately 700 fire fighters and support personnel will be staged out of the guard station area along with a caterer and other support facilities. The existing fire camp at the Fairgrounds in Burns will remain in place.

So the problems may be getting ironed out.

We hope a full after-action report is made that details the difficulties with personnel assignment on the Egley Fire. Firefighting is an adaptive set of practices, and learning from past events is a vital component. We can learn from this fire, and should.

July 14

Mike: Recent field reports emailed to SOS Forests, which may or may not be true, indicate that language barriers and less-than-adequate training may be contributing to a falldown in overall firefighter performance at the Egley Complexity of Fires.

From Inciweb:

Egley Complex Size: 94,748

Complex Containment: 45

Personnel on Complex: 1,735

Last night, a precautionary evacuation was implemented by the Harney County Sheriff's Department in the area known as Emigrant Crossing. Approximately five homes, located near the intersection of the 43 and 47 Roads at Campbell's Ranch, were evacuated until further notice.

July 15

From a Burns resident: I'm a resident of Burns and have no credentials beyond that. Yesterday the Bear Canyon Fire [one of the Egley Complex of Fires] jumped the road and Emigrant Creek on the northeast side. We could see the huge cloud plume, but there was absolutely no news to the Burns-Hines community.

Through friends we learned that this portion of the fire ran 7 miles in one hour, and several ranchers with cattle in the area worked well into the night to move their herds.

I guess the thing that really pisses me off is that they brought fire companies in last Monday to protect structures, then sent them home two days later because everything was "okay". The Burns-Hines communities still do not have a fire line around them and the fire is only 9 miles away. One lightning strike between here and the Egley fire line with a west wind and watch out.

Supposedly there is an evacuation plan but nothing has been communicated to the citizens.

Thanks for listening and posting this information on the Internet.

July 16

From Inciweb:

Egley Complex Size: 101,000 ac

Complex Containment expected by July 22

Personnel on Complex: 1,832

Mike: Today the Egley Fire near Burns, Oregon went mega. The fire was reported on Inciweb to be over 100,000 acres (156 sq mi).

On July 6 this fire was 200 acres. No major wind events have transpired in the intervening ten days. The Egley Fire is not in "roadless" territory or excessively rough terrain.

What has transpired is a deliberate effort on the part of the Federal Government to lay waste to as much of central and eastern Oregon as they can. This program was declared and described by the US Forest Service in their Fall, 2006 issue of Fire Management Today, Vol 66 No 4, wherein the USFS announced central and eastern Oregon to be a multi-million acre Maximum Management Area (Let It Burn Zone).

The Egley Fire could have been contained July 6 for a few tens of thousands of dollars. Now containment costs will be in the tens of millions of dollars (upper tens).

The USFS and Bureau of Land Management, under the guidance of the Wildland Fire Leadership Council, have taken it upon themselves to burn tens of millions of acres annually in the rural American West. Central and eastern Oregon were targeted, along with Utah (the currently 363,052 acre Milford Flat Fire is the largest in Utah history), Montana, Idaho, California, Alaska, and New Mexico.

Rather than fire trail the Egley Fire, the strategy employed was to drop way back and backburn into the wind. The effect of that strategy was to double the size of the fire, and then double it again and again. The same strategy was employed on the 500,000 acre Biscuit Fire (2002), with similar effect.

The justification for this madness was given in the USDA OIG Audit Report: Forest Service Large Fire Suppression Costs (Report No. 08601-44-SF) which calls for ignoring total fire costs and instead concentrating on costs per acre! The Awful Audit was so extreme in misperception that we felt compelled to write a Letter to Congress warning of the dangers lurking. That effort accomplished nothing.

bear bait: The Egley Complex is not even close to being controlled. I see in their announcement they did a burn out and connected the Bear Canyon Fire with the Egley Fire. That leaves the Silver Creek Fire part by itself, but that, too, will join up sooner than later.

Now that the Bear Canyon fire has crossed Emigrant Cr. and is going up Blue Creek, north, uphill, on its way to Grant County, my question is why did they not get a handle on the fire while it was on flat ground? Now it's headed up the hill, the very top of which is Snow Mountain.

The latest announcement is that they moved the fire camp out of Allison Guard Station, and off to the Suplee/Paulina road somewhere. They must have no expectation or intention of fighting the fire where it is, so they again moved camp another 20 miles away to the north and west.

I hunt that country. A couple of years ago it was being thinned and piled. I wonder if they got the piles burned. If not, that could explain part of the trouble with containment.

This whole Egley deal stinks. The biggest part of the fire is a reburn on ground roasted in 1990. I wonder if there is an agenda there.

My anger is beyond words. My estimation of the Feds fire suppression abilities is the lowest. The frigging feds are worthless.

My friend just sent pictures of his cabin and bunk house, both burned to the ground. He lost it all. He did all the right things: built a pond with a half million gallons of water storage fed by a robust spring system right next to the cabin and had thinned and limbed his timber and burned the piles. And now it all is gone to ashes.

I am sitting here with tears in my eyes. That's my friend standing on the pavement, fire racing for his little ranch and cabin, his piece of Paradise, where he has been an outstanding steward.



His concern is not for his place, but for the man who rents his ground, whose dead cow is another thousand dollar bill pissed away by deliberate government ineptitude. Even more tragically, his place was just a drop among billions and billions incinerated.

All that timber on the left of this picture is now burned. Worse, for the ranchers, their graze is gone for this year and next and maybe longer. This fire has become another assault on rural life from urban land managers.

You can learn to hate the mutha humpers. It's hard not to when they do this kind of thing.

From Inciweb: Continued above average temperatures and exceptionally low humidity fueled an active day for the Egley Complex today. The Silver and Bear Canyon fires had significant growth due to strong winds and highly receptive fuels. Air attack was also complicated by heavy areas of smoke. More than 120,000 acres have now been consumed.

A Structure Protection Task Force is now in place, concentrating on the Allison Guard Station, the Sugar Loaf Mountain Lookout, campgrounds and several private residences. Additionally, crews continue patrolling the Egley fire, which itself is nearly 100 percent contained. The entire complex remains 45 percent contained.

Crews successfully completed a planned burnout which combined the Bear Canyon and Egley Fires in an effort to stop the advancement of the Bear Canyon Fire Sunday. It's now expected that the Silver Fire may also merge with the Bear Canyon Fire

The Pacific Northwest Team 3 assigned to the Egley Complex will continue structure protection plans and attempt to prevent fire spread beyond existing control lines while battling continued dry conditions and erratic winds Tuesday.

Current Situation

Total Personnel: 1,856

Size: 120,000 acres

Percent Contained: 45%

Estimated Containment Date: 07/22/2007

Fuels Involved: Timber, timber litter and understory, plantation trees, grass and brush vegetation

Fire Behavior: Active surface fire spread with torching and spotting

Significant Events Within the last reporting period, the Silver and Bear Canyon fires had significant growth due to strong winds and highly receptive fuels. Bear Canyon fire crossed over the 47 road last night. Private structures in the Yellowjacket area were wrapped with fire shelter material today

Planned Actions Silver and Bear Canyon: continue burnout operations, line construction on the north and east flanks and continue to mopup on all other divisions. Egley: continue mopup operations

July 17

bear bait: They could not get a handle on the Bear Canyon Fire when it was on flat ground. Now the push lines are uphill. I would bet the plan is to burn out from the Paulina hiway (paved road) up the various hills to the fire now on top. And most of the ground along the road is private. This will be interesting.

It is neither easy, sane, nor safe to try to backburn downhill from upslope of the fire front. Not happening. So the major cheapo solution is now no longer available.

But, on the good news front, overhead and administrators will be judged on their costs per acre, and when you add 20,000 acres a day to the fire, you are bringing your costs per acre down. This is the Milo Minderbinder School of Economics from the genius of Heller's Catch-22. Get the per unit cost down, while utterly ignoring the total cost. So Milo was flying supplies to the Germans with US planes when they were not needed in bombing raids. When I first read the book, I was young and could not understand the insanity. Now I am older and see it every day.

The Auditor General will be looking at per acre costs after this fire season. The low per acre cost fires will be the ones with little or no structure protection, vast acres burned, and no mop up because they burned it hot enough to cook all the fuel.

Add to that the fact that they have so far kept the fire out of Riley proper or Hines/Burns is a big brownie button. And, all the stuff that was killed but not incinerated in the 1990 fire will now be gone.

Somewhere in the back of my mind is the thought that the fire may provide needed wildhorse graze area, and here is the opportunity the wildhorsers were looking for. Another notion is that there will now be a salvage logging effort, since the fire burned through a whole lot of thinned and piled and burned acres of younger age timber. Unless Earth First! shows up to protest the mugging of the burn victim.

One year not too long ago, my son and I dropped in the Ranger Station at Hines, which was a joint venture at that time with two ranger districts from two National Forests, the Snow Mtn. RD on the Ochoco NF and the Burns RD on the Malheur NF. We asked to buy a map from the receptionist, and as an aside, I noted that we had seen several goshawks, every day, and I had been a forester for 35 years, and had only seen one or two in a lifetime. And the receptionist leans over hollers through a doorway at someone we could not see, "Hey, Larry, the goshawks are in." Like it was no big deal, and now they knew they were there, evidently having migrated in from up north far away.

All that goshawk wintering ground is now burned or about to be burned. From which we draw some inferences. One is that reprod p-pine is good winter goshawk habitat, and second that habitat is meaningless after its value in stopping logging has been accomplished. If that were

not the case, then why have they burned so much of it, on purpose, in the backburning process?

Mike: One of the incompetent accounting methods used by the Auditor General in the Awful Audit was to totally ignore the value of the resources destroyed in fires.

As far as the Leadership is concerned, forests are worthless piles of fuel waiting to burn. The cheaper they can burn them per acre, the better.

The Leadership has established an annual quota of burned acres that field offices are supposed to achieve. The USFS used to want to get the cut out; now they want to get the "burn out".

There is zero consideration that forests are anything but fuel combustion problems. The USFS doesn't get it that forests are biological. The "fuel" is biomass, the kind that grows by itself, the kind you really can't stop from growing, so that the fuel problem is continuously self-regenerating and eternal, the perfect bureaucratic plum tree.

It's not about the goshawks, or the owls, or the wolves, or the old-growth, or the salmon, or biodiversity, or forest health, or Gaia, or any other red herring strawman, including logging. It's about takeover. It's about pan-ethnic cleansing. It's about social and economic dissolution via environmental destruction.

It's a war. War is the takeover of property by force, usually with an armed militia. That's the definition, and that's what is happening. A faction or group is attempting to take control over vast territories that do not belong to them at present. Their means are violent, destructive, and terrorizing.

What is happening is not a new phenomenon. War is a very old phenomenon. What is perhaps surprising is that so many modern, self-described sophisticates are so blind to it. I am reminded of stories about pre-WWII Germany, and how the entire German population slipped into mass insanity before they self-destructed so horrendously.

Brooks Burford, Northwest News Network: The largest fire in Eastern Oregon is almost in the middle of nowhere.

Mike: Brooks Burford aside, the people who live in Eastern Oregon would just as soon not have it burned to a crisp. Because they live there, and like it there, and firestorms tend to make the place less livable.

It is easy, of course, for urbanites to think of everywhere else but their own city as nowhere. This brand of thinking is known as provincialism.

It is handy for Big Brother to denigrate and marginalize the places on the To Be Incinerated List and to de-humanize the residents. Then when the firestorms hit and people lose their homes, ranches, farms, possessions, livestock, pets, and sometimes even their lives, it is

useful to have established the precedent and pre-judgment that it's all okay, because those were nobodies doing nothing in the middle of nowhere.

Nothing really happened. The Egley Fire was just another mass hallucination. Forget about it. Everything is okay. Continue to perform your function. Be passive. If you do not know your function, then please sit there quietly and look at your shoes.

Your screen will go blank now. Do not be alarmed. It is for the Good of the Collective.

July 18

From Inciweb:

Egley Complex Size: 135,000 acres

Complex Containment: 55%

Personnel on Complex: 1,680

Rick Elkhunter: I live in southern Oregon but hunt in Burns, actually the area that is burning. I have been visiting Burns every 3 weeks because I have 10 tree stands and 10 infrared cameras up. When I first learned of the fire, it seemed they had enough firefighters there to get it under control. I studied the fire maps then and it seemed the fires were 5-10 miles from each camera. Then day after day, as I checked the fire map, I watched as everything I have out came to be within the fire zone.

What I think hasn't been mentioned here is that myself and hundreds of other hunters won't be hunting in the Burns area this year, and who knows how long. We "poor" hunters spend some nice fat money in Burns and in the surrounding areas. I myself am there for over a month. But not to worry, I will head up farther north and spend my money elsewhere.

Backcut: I live in a tiny town of 125 in the mountains above the Mother Lode country of California. Us long time mountain folk have lived under the threat of wildfires for many, many years. We manage the fuels around our houses. We favor fire-resistant plants. We advocate superior forest management, using the latest sound ecosystem science.

We watch, while mega-fires run rampant across our Federal lands. The numbers don't lie! Compare burned areas per year of the last ten years with previous 10-year periods. The acreage really spiked up at the end of the Clinton Administration and has started an upward spiral.

Meanwhile, the preservationists tell us that "fire is natural and beneficial". Only when fires burn in "natural" forests are they "natural and beneficial". Yes, there ARE parts within some fires which only underburn and clear out fuels. What we really need stats on is the rising percentage of high-intensity burn areas in today's firestorms.

July 21

From Inciweb:

Egley Complex Size: 138,500 acres

Complex Containment: 75%

Personnel on Complex: 1,327

July 22

From Inciweb: Congressman Greg Walden visited the Egley Complex yesterday for a briefing and public meeting.

Egley Complex Size: 140,000 acres

Complex Containment: 80%

Personnel on Complex: 1,220

July 23

From Inciweb: The Pacific Northwest Team 3 would like to thank the local community for their support.

Egley Complex Size: 140,360

Complex Containment: 100%

Personnel on Complex: 736

On Sunday, crews continued to secure containment lines and mop up the northern most portions of the Egley Complex Fires. By evening, all of the fires were fully contained. Smoke was visible throughout the day as unburned islands of fuel were consumed within the fire's perimeter. These interior flare ups are likely to continue for a very long time but they do not pose a threat to the containment line. Numerous crews and resources were released from the Egley Complex to support other incidents.

July 26

From Inciweb: Aside from working to re-open access in the fire area, agency officials and firefighters are repairing damages done by the fire itself and by the suppression activities taken to control the fire. The most immediate rehabilitation efforts include refurbishing dozer lines and cutting down hazard trees near roadways and recreation sites. Stabilizing burned areas is also at the top of the rehab list, with efforts such as reducing the potential of erosion with log barriers, water bars on roads, mulching hillsides with hay, and seeding desirable species; seeding to prevent establishment of weeds; constructing fences to protect seed; and applying herbicide treatments to treat noxious weeds.

The last set of rehab efforts will be taken to repair or improve fire-damaged lands that are unlikely to recover naturally without help and will be implemented over the next three years, but mostly within the next few months. Work will include chemical treatment and mechanical removal of invasive weed species, seeding, planting of tree and shrub seedlings, and repairing or replacing damage to minor facilities such as interpretive signs, livestock fences and wildlife guzzlers.

October 16

bear bait: I hauled some orchard grass seed to my friend whose ranch/tree farm got burned over, incinerated, in the Egley Fire north of Burns last summer. We put it in a storage unit for the seed, and he has a crew to put it on top of the first winter snow, whenever that happens.

Meanwhile, he went to all the meetings during and after the fire. Listened to all the BS, even to the USFS, who previously had promised they would strive to keep the fire from burning his ranch. They actually did do something. They sat on the road in trucks and watched.

Someone had left a camper trailer on USFS ground along Emigrant Creek. They wouldn't even hook up to it and move it out of harm's way. They didn't know who owned it. Liability, you know.

The result of all those meetings and listening to the baloney, the last outfit he talked to was ODFW and they actually responded to him. They are helping him buy the grass seed through some habitat improvement board deal. ODF is also providing ponderosa pine seedlings, which he has to plant on his own dollar.

The ODF wanted a 13' spacing, and he had to explain that his thinned plantation, with dead limbs removed, completely raked and cleared around his cabin with the metal roof, all were incinerated. The old spacing was 20' spacing at the least.

Any closer is like buying a horse for a poor person: you just gave them a monthly bill to feed, vet, and house a horse. Tight trees in a dry climate are just an extra expense to thin and they

make for a huge fire hazard. When the fire comes, every penny of investment is lost. What's the point of that?

And what is the Feds contribution to the disaster they promulgated? Not one damn thing. The Feds did not lift a finger in relief. Well, you do see their pickups running up and down the road. Probably scouting for elk season. Or looking for a reason to destroy more land.

There are big yellow signs everywhere telling you not drive into the fire area. It is being "protected" from human beings right now. You have to wonder if the ranger has a sign business on the side.

So, my friend filed a logging plan while the stumps were smoking, and he hired a couple of hard working young fellas from Burns with an excavator, a couple of skidders, and a log loader. They have put out close to 100 loads of logs into a really crappy market. No pine under 12 inches diameter on the scaling (small) end. The fir has to be at least 8 inches. And that means a lot of trees left to cut, buck, pile, and burn in place. He has a zillion piles. In the winter-spring of 2009, he will burn a lot of piles.

Hello lefty arsonist eco-nazis! My friend is raping his burn victim property. Aren't you going to stage a protest, mount a lawsuit, or do something to prevent disaster relief and recovery?

My friend was (is still) defenseless against wildfire from Federal lands. That much has been proven. So now he is building range, not timber. Lots of wild flowers in the spring, green grass, and animals gamboling on his heath. He is tending his wild to be productive, and not a forgotten, neglected piece of burned over, vacant land that is the neighborhood eyesore.

Good on him!!!! It has to take guts, attitude, and foresight to be able to move forward after your personal Eden has been reduced to ash, black stems, red needles by the billions on the ground, and the sounds of beetles munching through what barely survived. As rot takes over, it is not even an endless supply of firewood, but just more tinder for the next wildfire that comes roaring off the public domain.

This is the only logging job going in Harney County; salvaging a 100,000 acre forest fire. Thousands of acres of merchantable timber burned, but only one salvage logging job happening, on my friend's place. Private ground, two loads a day, two guys yard for 4 hours, and then cut for 4 hours. The log trucker takes care of loading and hauling his two loads a day.

Seventy percent or more of the jobs in Harney County are Federal, State, County, City or local cooperatives. There is little or no private sector. The goddamned county can't even support itself except on what they tax each other, and they lean heavily on the 30% or less who work for low wage private jobs and who are leaving the area like rats from a sinking ship.

We are a disgraced State. We are idiots, collectively. Schools are starved for money, while the public resource for schools (according to government lies of a century ago) burns and rots. We

prefer to let flames and bugs eat the trees rather than have a healthy economy and decently-funded schools.

The Egley Fire burned over a 1990 burn. The older fire was (also) uncontrolled, and burned up green timber and across vast grass meadows (the ungrazed ones providing lots of fuel, and the grazed ones just enough to convey the fire into other fuels). That mess was managed by someone from North Carolina, I believe. The fire overhead team was from some East Coast area. I hope they had a good experience.

The 1990 fire had to burn itself out. This year the USFS added a huge backfire program, some of which never did reach the fire front, and others that left big areas of unburned fuel (green timber) that hot shot crews hiked into to burn them out.

Can't have that fuel threat, you know. Lumber? We can buy all we want from Weyerhaeuser, et al. in Canada. Our trees can fuel more fires and then rot.

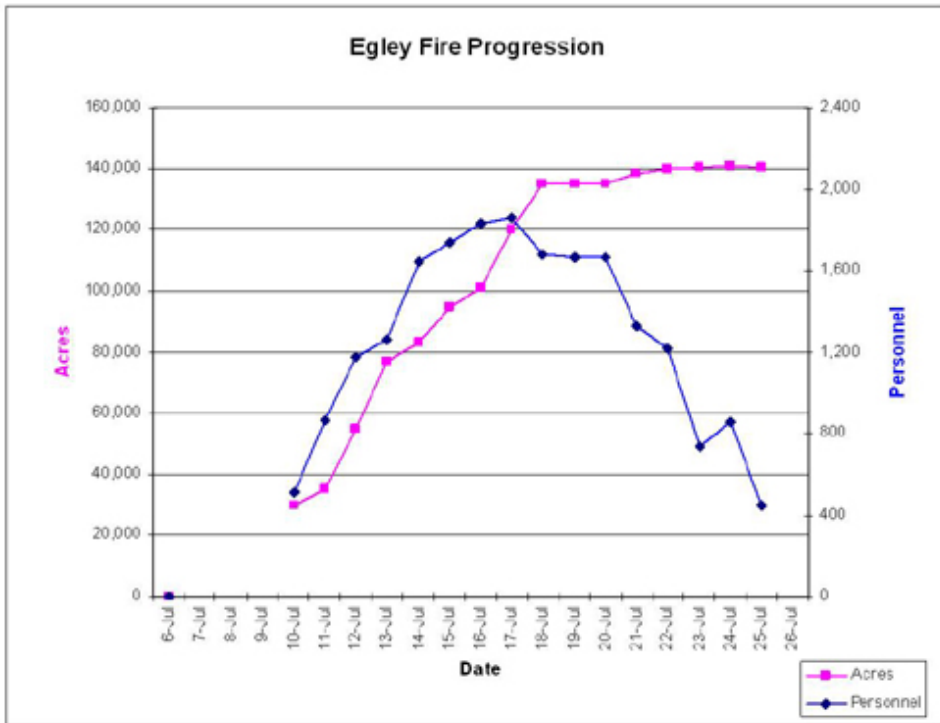
As I drove through Bend, metropolitan Bend, Central Oregon Paradise, a little voice in my brain repeated the whine of the Public Land Managers who have come up with a buffer of 30 miles from Federal "wildland" as the needed space between residential development and the holocaust-prone public lands they mismanage. I had to laugh. That 30 miles would include every acre of Bend and the surrounding water hog golf courses, McMansions, and the horsey arenas to keep wifey on a horse and not the pool boy.

What are those WUI people smoking? Who comes up with these numbers? Even a frigging mile is too goddamned much. They have a responsibility to manage their land, and the private guy his, and both are forced to do it with way too much oversight by know-nothing meddlers inside and outside government.

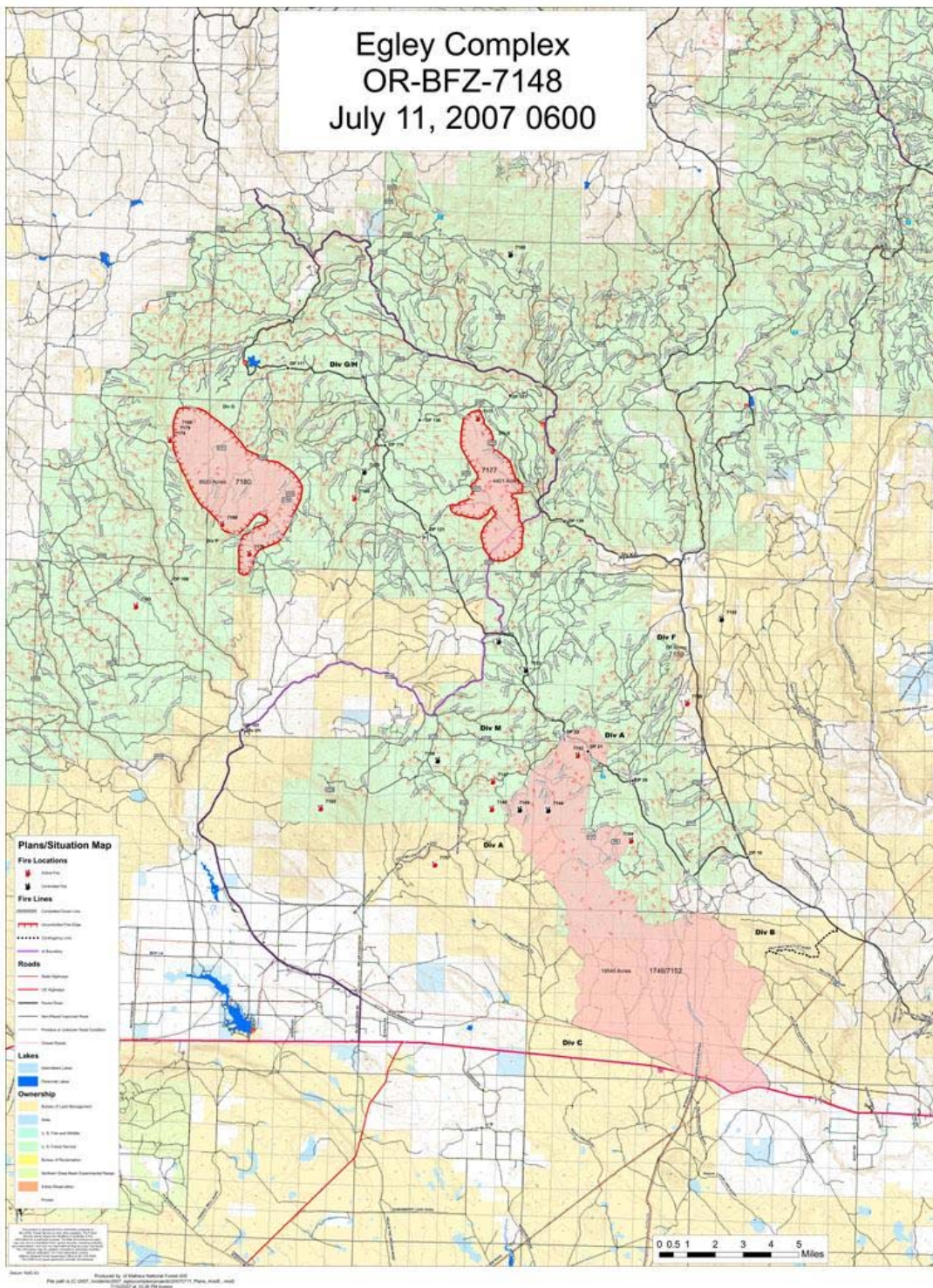
If the Feds don't want to fight their self-induced public fires when they spread to private land, all they have to do is make a half mile wide fuel-free zone inside the perimeter of their lands. Let private landowners be responsible for maintaining it. Mow it, spray it, plow it, graze it, makes no nevermind. It would be a fuel-free zone, and the Feds could sit around in their offices and look smart, talk smart, and hang on until the manna from heaven pours in after retirement.

So on the way home, we went over the old Mackenzie Pass. What a joke that is!!! I don't know if you could arrange for heavy fuels to be more ready for fire. What a mess!!! But pretty damned beautiful after you get through the dead and dying timber and down into the wet westside. Vibrant, striking yellows in the maples now with lots of shades of yellow that looked so bright and clean against the dark greens and blues of the conifers.

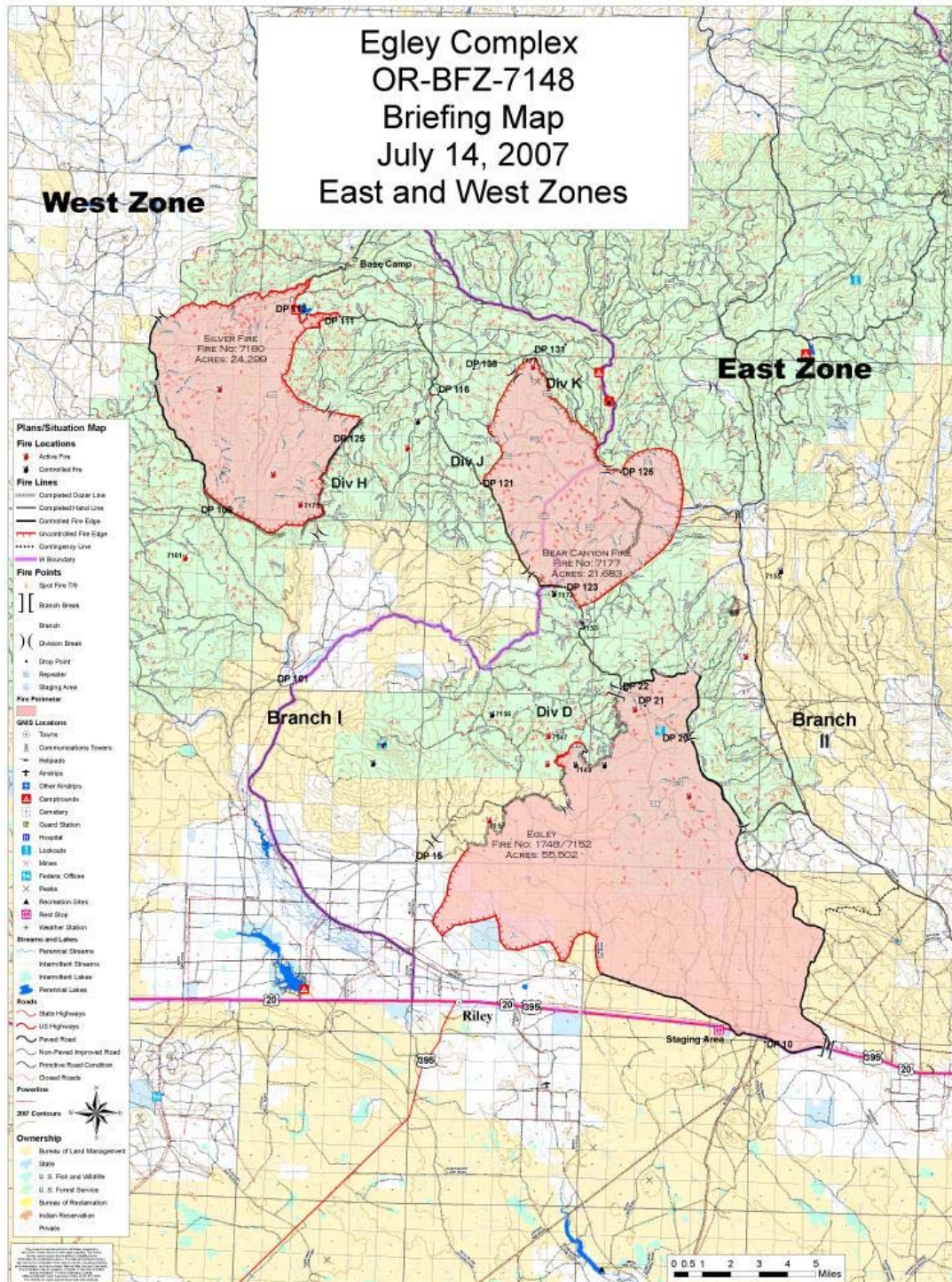
Nice to see the sights, have a little road trip. Depressing to see government at non-work, to read the paper about Congressman Wu, political donations, and making the Marines buy their own fire shirts. We ought to make those shirts a part of the regular fire overhead costume. The only fire they would ever see would be around the campfire in hunting season, while the wearer of the pilfered shirt roasted weenies on a stick.



Egley Complex
OR-BFZ-7148
July 11, 2007 0600

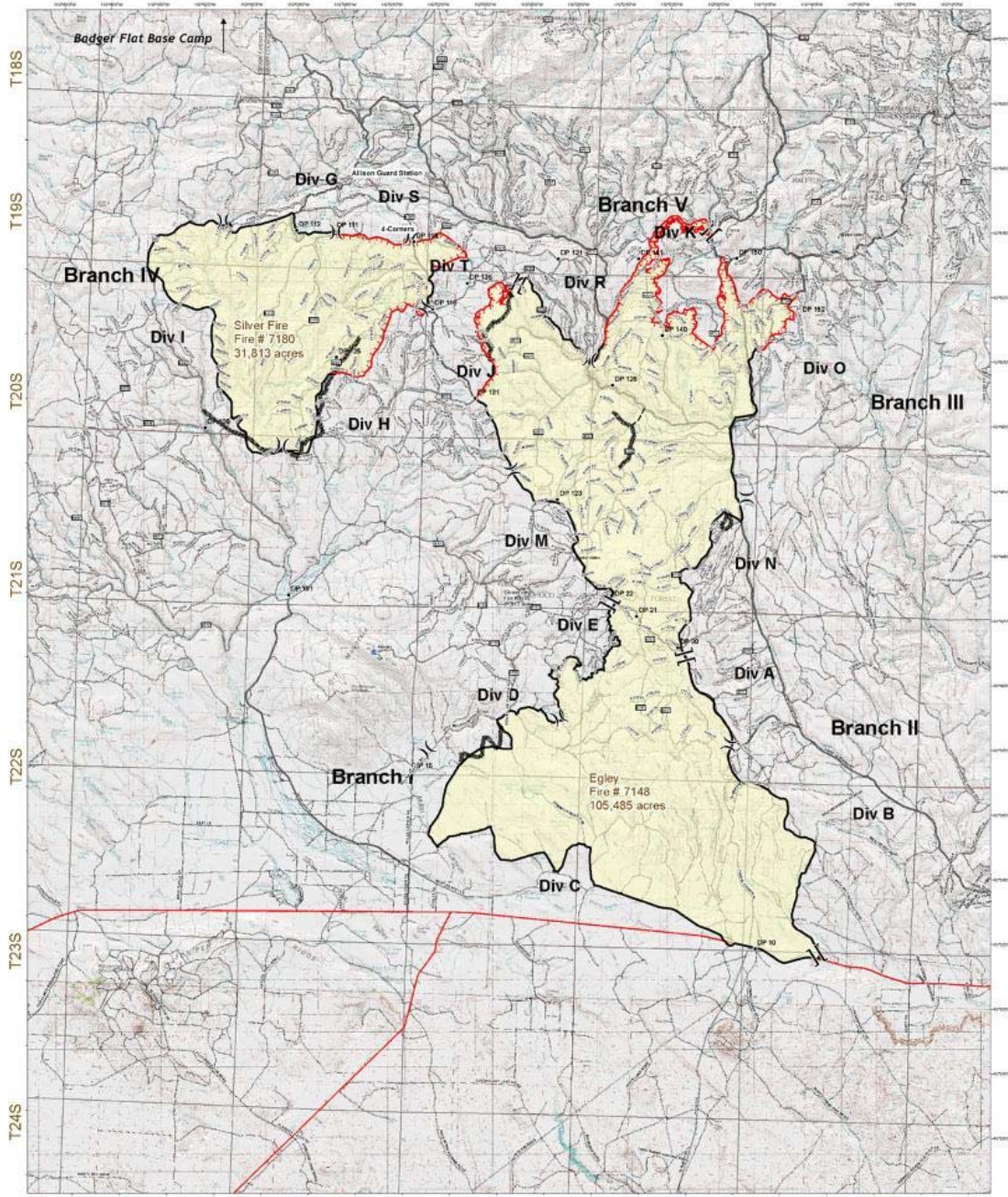


Egley Complex OR-BFZ-7148 Briefing Map July 14, 2007 East and West Zones



Egley Complex - Briefing Map

July 20, 2007



137,298 acres

