



Dixie National Forest

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News Release

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Pine Valley Ranger District Makes Progress on Oak Grove and Brown Trail Fires

ST. GEORGE, UTAH –The Pine Valley Ranger District of the Dixie National Forest is making progress toward containment on lightning caused fires in the Pine Valley Wilderness Area. The Oak Grove Fire is now at 849 acres with 40% containment and resources began mop up on the Brown Trail Fire.

The Brown Trail Fire was declared contained last night and Aaron Graeser from Coconino Crew 4 assumed command as a type 4 incident commander. Containment lines held through the night and firefighters returned today to continue working on extinguishing remaining smoldering material near the fire's edge. Smoke may still be visible from Pine Valley as internal vegetation burns out.

Containment increases on the Oak Grove Fire to forty percent. "Resources are doing a fantastic job. Due to their hard work and effort, we are making gains in containment," said Ken Henson, Fire Management Officer on the Pine Valley Ranger District. Heavy air tankers continue to drop retardant on the Oak Grove Fire to help slow fire growth in terrain that is difficult to access while handcrews continue to make progress on constructing fire control line.

Resource advisors continued to scout the area affected by the fire and suppression efforts to determine impacts on natural resources. Information gathered by resource advisors is used to develop minimum impact suppression tactics to protect the wilderness character of the area surrounding the Oak Grove Campground and erosion possibilities into the watershed. Moisture is expected to move into the fire area beginning tomorrow evening continuing through Monday, further assisting in fire containment efforts.

Forest Roads #031, #902 and # 032 and the Oak Grove Campground remained temporarily closed. Browns Trail, Forsyth Trail, Equestrian Trail and the Summit Trails also remained closed. Temporary closures allow firefighters, fire equipment, and aerial resources to work efficiently and effectively while keeping members of the public out of harm's way. The Washington County Sheriff's Department assisted with closure enforcement until additional security personnel could be put in place. The Forest closure order will continue until the fire danger subsides.

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