



Bear Gulch Fire Information

Fire Information Phone: 360-732-1813 (8 a.m. - 8 p.m.; voice only – texts will not be received)

Email: 2025.beargulch@firenet.gov

Inciweb: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov>

AirNow: <https://fire.airnow.gov>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/beargulch2025/>

August 9, 2025

Estimated size: 5,556 acres

Containment: 3%

Start Date/Time: 07/06/2025 9:42 p.m.

Area of Origin: North side of Lake Cushman near Mount Rose in the Olympic National Forest, Hoodsport, WA.

Cause: Human-caused

Structures Damaged: 0

Firefighters prepare for warmer, dryer weather

Update: After a couple of cooler days with higher humidity levels, temperatures are forecasted to increase over the weekend, leading to drier fuels and increased fire activity through early next week. Firefighters are focused on fully suppressing the fire as safely and efficiently as possible while working to keep homes, campgrounds, and other structures and values protected. Crews continue improving road systems and utilizing natural features to serve as a fuel break to prevent fire spread. West of the lake, hundreds of sprinklers are running for added protection of homes and structures in the Copper Creek and Dry Creek areas. Structure protection specialists are working as well southwest of Lake Cushman to keep buildings more defensible. Fire crews in the Staircase area are running sprinklers, mopping up, and removing flammable materials near infrastructure. Fuel removal work continues around Brown Creek Campground. Helicopters will continue dropping water from the lake on hot spots and along the fire's perimeter to minimize spread.

Fire Behavior: Yesterday, fire activity was limited by recent rain and higher humidity, although some perimeter growth occurred. Heavy fuels are burning with high intensity under dense canopies, preheating adjacent fuels. Burning logs and other debris rolling downhill may contribute to moderate fire spread.

Weather: Fog and smoke in the early hours should dissipate with winds, giving way to clear conditions by late morning. Temperatures remain in the upper 70s and low 80s and conditions will be slightly drier than Friday at about 50 percent humidity. Hotter, drier weather is expected over the next few days.

Smoke Outlook: Air quality can change quickly. Know your risk to wildfire smoke and plan to reduce exposure. For current smoke reports, visit: <https://fire.airnow.gov>

Lake Closure: The southern half of the lake is open to recreation. The north half of the lake is closed to support the Bear Gulch suppression and evacuation efforts.

Fire Restrictions: All campfires are prohibited in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park. All outdoor burning is prohibited in Mason County.

Olympic National Forest Closures: There are many road, trail, and campground closures in the southeast portion of the Forest. Closure information: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r06/olympic/alerts>

Olympic National Park Closures: There are extensive closures on the southeast corner of Olympic National Park. Closure information: <https://www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/fire-conditions-and-updates.htm>

Evacuation Levels: The Bear Gulch Fire area near Dry Creek Trail is in a Level 3 “GO” evacuation. This includes the Staircase Campground and areas across the causeway on the north side of Lake Cushman. The area south of Dry Creek has a Level 2 “BE SET” evacuation notice. Current evacuation information: <https://www.facebook.com/masoncosheriff>

Air Space Restrictions: A Temporary Flight Restriction is in place over the Bear Gulch Fire. If you fly, we can’t. Every time a drone is spotted near the fire all aircraft are grounded until we can be sure the drone is clear of this area: <http://knowbeforeyoufly.org>

How You Can Help: Our wildland fire crews are well equipped and cared for. Creating defensible space around your home is the BEST thing you can do to help firefighters. Learn how: <https://www.ready.gov/wildfires>. Banners and signs boosting morale are also appreciated. Please confirm needs by contacting organizations of your choice before donating items.

Fire Investigation: Olympic National Forest is seeking tips for how the fire started on July 6. Members of the public with information are encouraged to contact the Forest Service Tipline by phone at 541-618-2154 or by email at SM.FS.R6TipHotLine@usda.gov. Tips submitted via email should have the subject, “Bear Gulch.” Learn more: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r06/olympic/newsroom/releases/usda-forest-service-seeks-public-help-fire-investigation-lake-cushman>.

Recreation Opportunities: Many recreation areas remain open. Learn more: <https://www.explorehoodcanal.com/>