



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 7, 2025

Estimated size: 5,136 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

Protection of Structures and Values Remain a Priority

Update: Rain fell over the fire yesterday and moderated fire behavior resulting in minimal perimeter growth. Helicopters were grounded due to limited visibility from rain and clouds, but operations are expected to resume today. Structure protection continues around the Copper and Dry Creek in-holdings. Hose and sprinkler kit deployment resumed to protect boat-in residences along Lake Cushman and will continue today. In the Staircase area of Olympic National Park, crews will run pumps and maintain sprinklers for structure and resource protection. Firefighters and natural resource specialists removed surface fuels and installed sprinklers around old growth Douglas Fir trees that serve as important bird habitat. South of the fire on the Olympic National Forest, crews dropped dead trees and masticated them to protect structures and values at Lebar Horse Camp and Brown Creek Campground. Mastication work and hand line improvement continue southeast of the fire. Snagging on State Route 119 is completed.

Fire Behavior: Significant rain led to minimal fire perimeter growth. Heavy dead and down trees under the dense forest canopy continue to burn with relatively high intensity. A drying trend will begin this afternoon. Rolling and falling material on slopes will be an ongoing occurrence.

Weather: A front moved across the fire yesterday bringing widespread wetting rains between 0.35 and 0.45 inches. Rain showers will wane today. Hot and dry weather is expected over the weekend and early next week.

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. Please visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r06/olympic/alerts> for the specifics of what is closed and open.

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

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. For 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 at <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/>