

Wildfire Report

Summary

Lightning storms from mid-July ignited several wildfires in the Willamette National Forest, a few miles east of Oakridge. As several smaller fires joined up, this fire was named the Deception Creek Complex after the area it is burning. Over the course of two weeks, the fire grew from 80 acres to over 2000 and now at over 6000 acres. It is anticipated that the final fire size at Deception Creek will reach almost 7500 acres, including burned out areas inside the perimeter. “Burnout” refers to controlled fires added by fire fighters to burn off fuel so the wildfire cannot spread. As of September 19th, 2014, the fire is 80% contained and fire personnel are downsizing.

Smoke from Deception Creek have inundated the Oakridge and Westfir communities. LRAPA has been working closely with the National Forest Service Air Resource Advisor (ARA) personnel at the fire. Since early August, LRAPA has worked with four different ARAs to bring current condition reports and future smoke forecasts to the community. The ARA’s set up temporary monitors in Westfir Middle Fork Ranger Station, Oakridge High School, and Dexter. These monitors and the data collected by LRAPA were utilized to alert the community about smoke impacts.



Photo 1: View of Deception Creek smoke from downtown Oakridge

During this time, LRAPA also worked closely with the City of Oakridge mayor and city administrator, Lane County Emergency Services, and Lane County Public Health to address the smoke impact issues for the Oakridge/Westfir residents. A “Smoke Relief Room” was set up at the Willamette Activity Center in downtown Oakridge that provided an air conditioned get-away for residents. The ARA’s also kept a close eye on smoke monitors that helped alert schools to the level of outdoor activity students should be having. There was one reported

incident of moving the Oakridge High School football game to Oakland because of smoke levels.

Other fires

As the summer progressed, hotter and drier conditions perpetuated more wildfires. 25 miles west of Cottage Grove, the Yellow Point Fire ignited in early September and was put out in ten days, after burning nearly 800 acres. This fire added a lot of smoke to the Eugene, Springfield, and Cottage Grove areas.

Smoke mixing from fires as far away as California (Happy Camp Fire), Grants Pass (Onion Mountain), and north at Mt. Hood National Park (36 Pit) have caused smokier than usual conditions for Lane County. These conditions were worsened by mixing particulates from agricultural soil dragging and smaller grass wildfires. Overall, Lane County has experienced one of the smokiest summers in recent record.

AQI Highs

Eugene/Springfield	Oakridge
92 AQI (Moderate)	154 AQI (Unhealthy)

On August 28, the 12-hour AQI average reached the Unhealthy (Red) level at 154 in Oakridge. The following day was an average of 102 Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (Orange). The smokiest day in Eugene/Springfield was on September 7, 2014 with a 12-hour average of 92, in the high Moderate (Yellow) range.

Partnerships

Although the fire presented many smoke challenges for LRAPA, it was a good opportunity to work with other agencies. Willamette National Forest, Oregon Department of Forestry, and LRAPA had a joint press conference at the WNF headquarters on August 28th.

LRAPA has also been present at Oakridge public meetings to help reach out to the community with the National Forest Service. Each week, LRAPA also has a presence at the Fire Collaborator's Meeting and provides updates to the partners. LRAPA also car pools up with Lane County Public Health for these meetings. Public Health's Selene Jaramillo has been an important partner with LRAPA in discussing smoke impact plans and messaging to the public. Public Health's Public Information Officer, Jason Davis and LRAPA's Jo Niehaus have twice issued joint press releases regarding the smoke.



Photo 2: Public meeting in Oakridge

Most importantly, LRAPA was able to maintain a consistent presence in Oakridge and around the fire community as a solid partner and air quality regulator. Although wildfire smoke is hard to control, the public could see that LRAPA was involved in the monitoring and messaging of the current activities.

Communications also increased virtually. Partnering with

Oregon Department of Forestry and Willamette National Forest helped LRAPA gain followers and increase traffic to our own social media sites. Social media posts were boosted and turned into ads for more exposure and were seen by thousands of people.

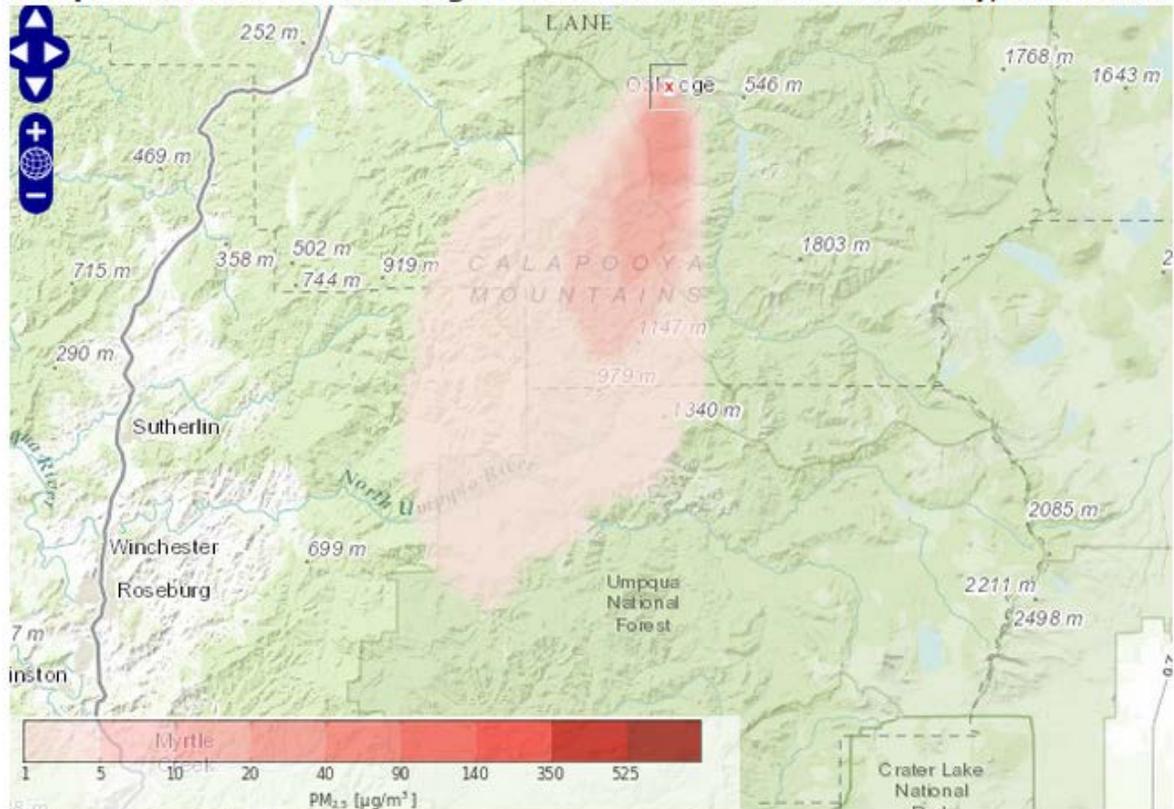
Things for the future

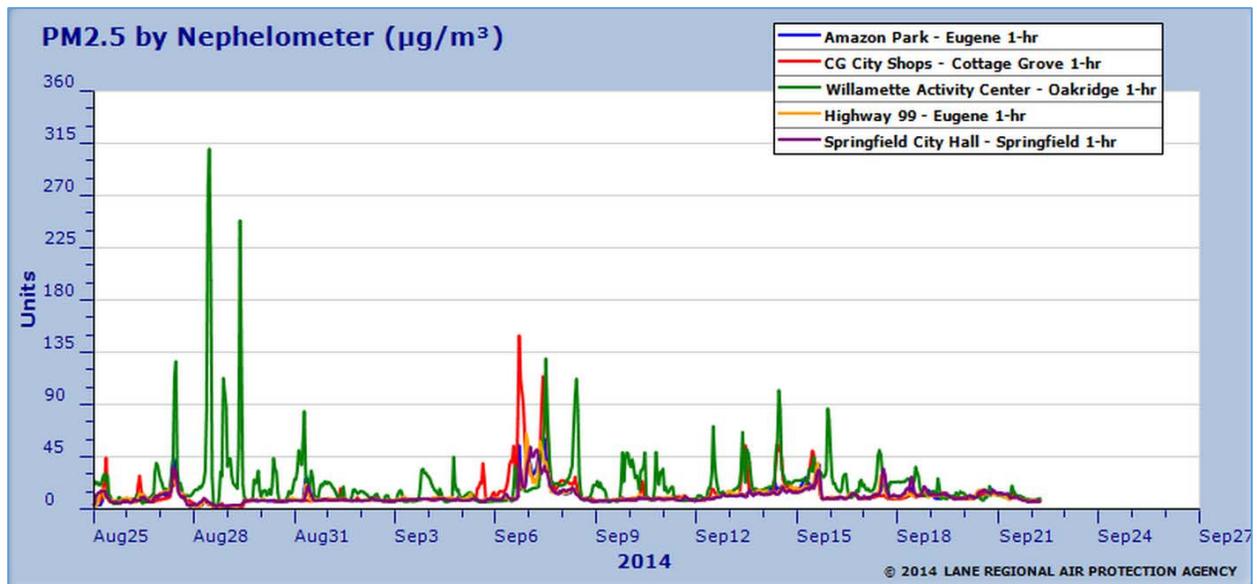
- Website updates need to be clarified. There are issues where people get confused:
 - AQI 12-hour average vs. Current conditions
 - Micrograms/m³ vs. AQI index
 - Highest average site vs. site they want to see
- Looking for ways to provide impacted communities with more resources to escape from smoke

Air Quality Forecast for Friday (Particulate Matter less than 2.5 µm in diameter)

Site	Friday Morning Sep 19, 2014	Friday Afternoon Sep 19, 2014	Friday Evening Sep 19, 2014
Oakridge	Moderate	Good	Good
Westfir	Moderate	Good	Good

Deception Fire 24-hour Average PM 2.5 Concentrations for Friday, 9.19.2014





AQI - Last 30 Days

Air Quality Index Values for 9/21/2014 - 8/23/2014

Date	Eugene/Springfield	Oakridge
9/21/2014	43 (PM*) - Good	48 (PM*) - Good
9/20/2014	53 (PM*) - Moderate	48 (PM*) - Good
9/19/2014	48 (PM*) - Good	53 (PM*) - Moderate
9/18/2014	58 (PM*) - Moderate	71 (PM*) - Moderate
9/17/2014	56 (PM*) - Moderate	76 (PM*) - Moderate
9/16/2014	45 (PM*) - Good	68 (PM*) - Moderate
9/15/2014	66 (PM*) - Moderate	96 (PM*) - Moderate
9/14/2014	62 (PM*) - Moderate	91 (PM*) - Moderate
9/13/2014	55 (PM*) - Moderate	79 (PM*) - Moderate
9/12/2014	43 (O3) - Good	64 (PM*) - Moderate
9/11/2014	39 (PM*) - Good	50 (PM*) - Good
9/10/2014	41 (PM*) - Good	81 (PM*) - Moderate
9/9/2014	36 (O3) - Good	66 (PM*) - Moderate
9/8/2014	51 (PM*) - Moderate	91 (PM*) - Moderate
9/7/2014	92 (PM*) - Moderate	101 (PM*) - Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
9/6/2014	61 (PM*) - Moderate	53 (PM*) - Moderate
9/5/2014	42 (O3) - Good	37 (PM*) - Good
9/4/2014	39 (PM*) - Good	58 (PM*) - Moderate
9/3/2014	37 (PM*) - Good	55 (PM*) - Moderate
9/2/2014	33 (PM*) - Good	43 (PM*) - Good
9/1/2014	35 (PM*) - Good	55 (PM*) - Moderate
8/31/2014	44 (PM*) - Good	85 (PM*) - Moderate
8/30/2014	32 (PM*) - Good	59 (PM*) - Moderate
8/29/2014	23 (O3) - Good	102 (PM*) - Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
8/28/2014	28 (O3) - Good	154 (PM*) - Unhealthy
8/27/2014	57 (PM*) - Moderate	83 (PM*) - Moderate

Lane Regional Air Protection Agency added 3 new photos. Sponsored ·

Wildfire smoke from Happy Camp, 790, Deception Complex, and Yellow Point are all contributing to the haze in Lane County. Due to light west winds, smoke is ending up in low laying areas. A cool front on Tuesday is expected to help clear the air.

When the Air Quality Index (AQI) is in the "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG)" or "Unhealthy" levels, we recommend people limit their outdoor activities. Lane County Government Public Health also has information on smoke impacts. ... [See More](#)

day Morning smoke PM2.5 concentrations, September 8th

How effective was the boost? ★★★★★

3,913 Paid Reach [?]
215 Actions [?]
\$20.00 Budget Spent

Actions | People | Countries

180 Photo Clicks
 8 Link Clicks
 10 Page Likes

See More Details

Ad Stopped September 8th, 2:38pm
 Age 18-65+
 Gender Male and Female
 Other Location - Living In:
 - United States: Cottage Grove (+5 mi), Creswell (+5 mi), Eugene (+5 mi), Oakridge (+5 mi), Pleasant Hill (+5 mi) Oregon

Boosted By Jo Niehaus

Current Budget \$20.00

Ads

LRAPA ran ads on Facebook about the fires and the smoke. There were both paid advertisements and unpaid posts. From 8/27 thru 9/22, LRAPA spent \$80 on four ads about the wildfires. Posts ranged from reaching 1760 to 3913 people.

Lane Regional Air Protection Agency shared Oregon Department of Forestry's status update. Sponsored ·

Cottage Grove is feeling lots of smoke impacts. East winds (blowing from the East) are pushing smoke from Yellow Point Fire directly to the Cottage Grove Area. Oregon Department of Forestry is on the scene at the fire! People that are sensitive to smoke should limit outdoor activity and contact their doctors/health care providers if they are suffering from smoke impact symptoms.

Oregon Department of Forestry

OK, everyone, here's the first news release from ODF IMT 3 on the Yellow Point Fire:

 Oregon Department of Forestry
 Incident Management Team 3
 Dan Tho...
 See More

Like · Comment · Share · 26 2

How effective was the boost? ★★★★★

2,444 Paid Reach [?]
33 Actions [?]
\$20.00 Budget Spent

Actions | People | Countries

7 Link Clicks
 19 Page Likes
 24 Post Likes

See More Details

Audience and Payment