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## FW: Mud Lake Complex Update

Mud Lake Complex Public Information Office <mudlakecomplex@gmail.com> Thu, May 21, 2015 at 11:14 AM  
Reply-To: mudlakecomplex@gmail.com  
To: bob\_degross@nps.gov

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Mud Lake Complex  
Southern Area Red Team  
Thursday, May 21, 2015 9:30 AM  
Fire Information Office, 239-695-0881  
Mudlakecomplex@gmail.com



Fire Information Office  
Hours of Operation: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

[InciWeb](#)  
[Mud Lake Complex Map](#)

Current Status

The Mud Lake Complex is comprised of several fires caused by lightning strikes in the Big Cypress National Preserve located in Southwest Florida, near Naples. The fires have burned a total of 30,250 acres of various Preserve habitats which primarily include: dense, coarse grass; pine timber; and cypress domes. Currently, containment of the fires is 13 percent. Fires are expected to grow due to higher temperatures and lower relative humidity, combined with westerly winds. The Mist fire has merged with the Ellison fire and the Ellipse is being monitored. The Square and Ellison fires are the most active. The Bluebird Fire was a new start yesterday and is .25 acres.

Planned Events

Wildland firefighters will monitor the Ellipse and Pikel fires today. Work on the Square Fire will include improving fire containment lines and lessening the impact of smoke along the Interstate 75 corridor. Crews will continue clearing around camps and private property in the proximity of the Ellison Fire to secure the areas; this may include burning vegetation around property perimeters. Initial Attack crews will take appropriate action on the Bluebird Fire. Additionally, crews will continue to patrol, monitor and mop up hot spots using low impact fire suppression tactics to protect sensitive animals, such as the endangered Florida panther and threatened red-cockaded woodpeckers.

Fire	Estimated acreage as of May 20, 2015	Start Date
Ellison	19,561	May 8
Ellipse	215	May 10
Square	10,472	May 10
Pekel	2	May 17
68	3	May 18

Personnel	349
Equipment	7 helicopters (2 large, 1 medium, 4 small), 8 wildland fire engines, 6 fixed-wing aircraft.
Cooperators	National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Florida Forest Service, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Florida Highway Patrol, Collier County (Florida) Office of Emergency Management
Restrictions and Closures	A temporary flight restriction (TFR) is in effect. ( <a href="http://tfr.faa.gov/save_pages/detail_5_0876.html">http://tfr.faa.gov/save_pages/detail_5_0876.html</a> ) Access to lands managed by Big Cypress National Preserve south of Interstate 75, from mile marker 59 to mile marker 75 (Turner River Road), south to Upper Wagon Wheel Road is temporarily restricted as well. The closure also extends to lands administered by Big Cypress National Preserve north of Interstate 75, from mile marker 59 to mile marker 70, north to the Big Cypress Preserve Boundary. These areas will be closed to provide public and firefighter safety in areas of high fire activity. These areas are closed to all recreational use including Off-Road Vehicles (ORV), hiking, and camping. This area includes portions of the Florida National Scenic Trail from mile 12, traveling north to the northern boundary of Big Cypress National Preserve.
Fire Weather	Partly cloudy, becoming mostly cloudy this afternoon with scattered thunderstorms late in the afternoon and evening hours. Variable winds are forecast at 3-5 miles per hour in the morning becoming southwest at 4-8 mph, gusting to 12 mile per hour in the afternoon. Maximum temperature around 90-93 degrees with 40% RH. Chance of rain is 50%.

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Big Cypress National Preserve - Mud Lake Complex Public Information Office | 33100 Tamiami Trail East | Ochopee | FL | 34141