



# OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

## MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

660 North Street, Suite 300  
Jackson, MS 39202

[www.mfc.ms.gov](http://www.mfc.ms.gov)

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact:  
Brighton Forester  
Public Relations Director  
(601) 500-0489 cell  
[bforester@mfc.ms.gov](mailto:bforester@mfc.ms.gov)

### MFC Deploys Wildland Firefighters and Support Personnel to OR & WA

*JACKSON, Miss. (August 22, 2018)* - The Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) deployed five personnel to Oregon and Washington. Three wildland firefighters went to assist state and federal partners on the front line of wildfire suppression efforts in Washington (two Heavy Equipment Bosses and one Strike Team Leader). The MFC also deployed one Ground Support Unit Leader to Oregon, as a single resource, and one Supply Unit Leader to Washington, with the Southern Area Type 1 Interagency Incident Management Team (Blue Team). The personnel providing support functions to state and federal partners will serve as members of interagency incident management teams. Their names will be released upon their safe return to Mississippi in approximately two weeks.

“Fighting the destructive power of wildfire means that our wildland firefighters are working in extreme conditions protecting people’s lives, homes, and forestland. Wildland firefighters depend on the support of many different roles and skill sets to manage the logistics of wildfire incidents behind the scenes while they are fighting fires,” said Charlie Morgan, State Forester. “We appreciate our employees taking part in these efforts to help our state and federal partners in Oregon and Washington. We commend their efforts and look forward to their safe return home in approximately two weeks.”

As of August 22, 2018, the MFC currently has 29 employees (including wildland firefighters and support personnel) assigned to various wildfire incidents out West.

To learn more about the Mississippi Forestry Commission, please visit our [website](#) and follow us on social media: [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

To view this release online: [http://bit.ly/DeploysOR\\_WA](http://bit.ly/DeploysOR_WA)

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### About the Mississippi Forestry Commission

Established in 1926, the [Mississippi Forestry Commission](#) (MFC) protects the state’s valuable 19.8 million acres of forestland from wildfire, manages approximately 480,000 acres of forested School Trust Land, and delivers quality forest management services and assistance to both rural and urban landowners. Our mission is to provide active leadership in forest protection, forest management, forest inventory, and effective forest information distribution, necessary for Mississippi’s sustainable forest-based economy. Mississippi’s forestry and forest products industries have a \$12.79 billion economic impact and employ almost 70,000 people. Forestry consistently ranks as the state’s second most valuable agricultural commodity, right behind the poultry industry. The MFC looks forward to the continued privilege of caring for Mississippi’s trees, forests, and natural resources.