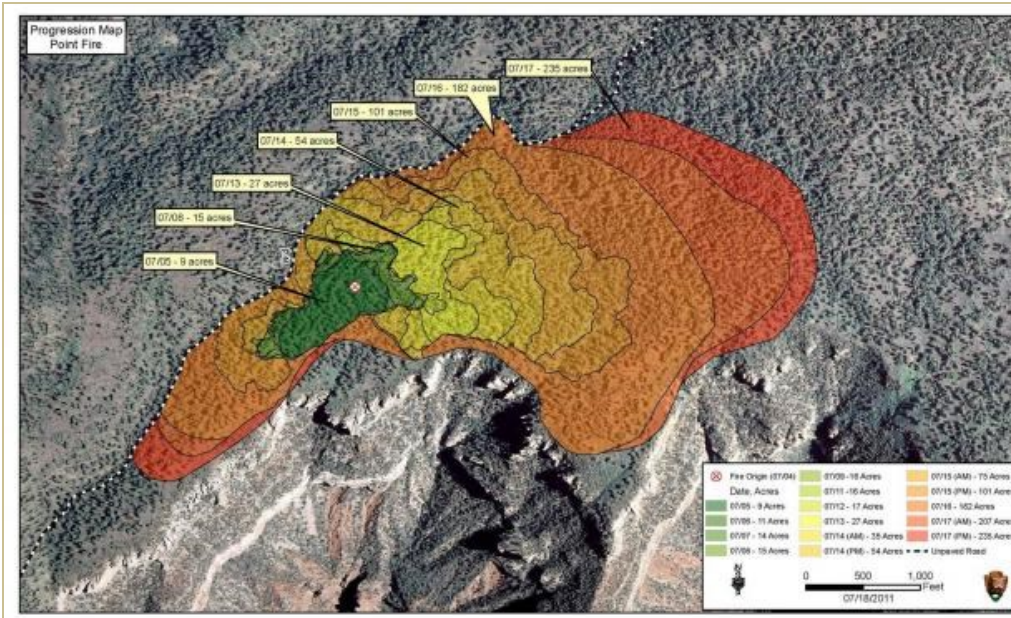




FROM THE AIR PROGRAM

THE LYON FIRE

IMPACTING VISIBILITY, BUT IS IT AFFECTING AIR QUALITY?



Since July 8th the Lyon Fire has been burning on the Sequoia National Forest, just South and West of Bishop. As of July 21st, the fire had expanded to cover 5,390 acres, and a map of the fire progression is shown below.

The fire has impacted visibility on the Bishop Paiute Reservation, as was apparent from the Tribal Air Program's web camera images.

We have selected the image from July 20th at 3:00PM Pacific Standard Time (4:00PM Daylight Savings time) be-

cause it represents some of the worst visibility and some of the worst air quality as measured by particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM-2.5).

Despite the poor visibility, the air quality could not be considered to be dangerous to the health of Reservation residents. The maximum level of PM-2.5 on July 20th was only 15.64 micrograms per cubic meter of air.

The range for "good air quality" according to the EPA's Air Quality Index, is between 0 and 50 micrograms.

Smoke can have a large impact on visibility, without much impact on air quality because some particles disperse light whereas others absorb light. The net effect is reduced visibility.

To see hourly visibility photos combined with air quality information, visit the Air Program's website at http://www.bishoptribeemo.com/index_air.htm

For more information, contact the Air Program at 760 873 7845.

