

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. This is Jim Burke with local news and commentary for Thursday, August 29, 2024.

An update on the 2620 Road fire follows: As of August 28-31, 2024, the estimated size is 398 acres. It started on Wednesday, August 14 at approximately 5pm.

Area of Origin: West of Brinon, North of Duckabush Road on Mt. Jupiter.

Cause is still undetermined.

No structures have been damaged.

Update: As of August 28, 2024, the 2620 Road Fire containment is at 100% containment. The fire has now transitioned to a Type 4 Incident with reduced staffing.

This will be the last update for the 2620 Road Fire.

Aerial operations will continue to fly in order to monitor the fire area looking for heat and hot spots.

Mop up and patrolling will continue throughout the fire area.

Hose lays will be moved as needed and then come off the mountain.

Road assessments will continue and grading or small repairs will begin.

Hand-dug and machine firelines will have their berms softened or removed.

And flagging, marking, and other items will be removed.

The Western Washington Type 3 Incident Management Team and the Georgia Forestry Commission Type 3 Incident Management Team are grateful for the outpouring of support and generosity from the community during this time. As we begin travelling back home, we look fondly on our time here and wish the best for everyone as life begins to get back to normal.

Air Restrictions: The Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) has been lifted.

The weather pattern will be warming into the 80s this week, and the chance of rain continues to lessen.

However, the seasonal chance of afternoon showers will continue.

And this next item is from the *Washington State Standard* and might be disturbing to some listeners.

Owls: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has finalized a plan to kill up to 15,600 barred owls a year in Washington, Oregon, and California. Barred owls are native to the eastern U.S. but invasive in this region. They began showing up in the Northwest in the 1970s and are now blamed as a primary cause for declines in spotted owl populations.

The northern spotted owl is classified as “threatened” under the federal Endangered Species Act. It is also known for its role in the timber wars of the 1980s and 1990s, which pitted environmentalists concerned about preserving old-growth trees against the logging industry.

The Fish and Wildlife Service plan calls for mostly shooting the barred owls with shotguns or capturing and euthanizing them in situations when that’s not practical. Only “professional removal specialists” who meet certain training requirements would be able to participate in the cull. Public hunting of barred owls will remain prohibited. The earliest removals could begin in likely spring of 2025. Lee with the Fish and Wildlife Service said, “If we act now, future generations will be able to see both owls in our Western forests.”

More information: [https://washingtonstatestandard.com/2024/08/28/plan-finalized-to-kill-thousands-of-barred-owls-around-northwest/?amp%3bhmac=_CUfrH94tATN0U6mdNrSHQCuapfDiUnChPEoFxtaVS4%3d&%3bemci=a27a038a-bb65-ef11-991a-6045bdd9e096&%3bceid=553235](https://washingtonstatestandard.com/2024/08/28/plan-finalized-to-kill-thousands-of-barred-owls-around-northwest/?amp%3bhmac=_CUfrH94tATN0U6mdNrSHQCuapfDiUnChPEoFxtaVS4%3d&%3bemci=a27a038a-bb65-ef11-991a-6045bdd9e096&%3bemdi=d6d82bf2-1466-ef11-991a-6045bdd9e096&%3bceid=553235)

Lastly, WSDOT and Washington State Ferries (WSF) ask all ferry riders to plan ahead and pack their patience this Labor Day weekend. They also ask us to recognize the dedicated workforce and the unions that support them. They said in WSDOT NEWS: Travelers should plan for long vehicle boarding lines as 300,000 set sail aboard Washington State Ferries from Thursday, August 29 through Monday, September 2.

As many travelers hit the road, sea, or air, the holiday is also a moment to recognize the hard work and dedication of the workers who keep our communities and industries thriving. Labor organizations are crucial to WSF's operations, which include a workforce of nearly 2,000 employees represented by 16 unions. WSF Assistant Secretary Steve Nevey, said, "I deeply appreciate the dedication and hard work of our frontline staff, who often sacrifice time with their family and friends during holidays to keep our system running. We also extend our deepest thanks to the unions that represent them, advocating for the rights and well-being of our workforce."

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I'm Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.