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Super Scoopers to fight Green Fire

Blaze burns more than 11.6K acres

Redding Record Searchlight
USA TODAY NETWORK

Fire officials working the Green Fire burning in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest northeast of Redding announced they are using two “Super Scooper” planes to drop water and help extin-

guish flames. The U.S. Forest Service also said a firefighter suffered from heat-related illness and was taken by a firefighting boat, which has a medic onboard, to a waiting ambulance so they could receive more medical care. As of Monday, the growing fire’s size was mapped at 11,642.4 acres, up from 10,334 on Sunday — fueled by extreme heat and dry conditions at this time of year in the region. A heat advisory remained in effect through 11 p.m. Monday

due to temperature highs that would range from 95 degrees to 110 degrees in parts of the Sacramento Valley. The Super Scoopers was expected to draw water from various arms of Lake Shasta, but they needed a mile of open space to refill their tanks. Boaters were warned to move toward the shore so as to not impede the firefighting operations and keep air crews safe, the forest service said in a statement last week-end. For the first time since lightning

sparked the fire on July 1, the forest service reported on Sunday that firefighters built containment lines around 5% of the Green Fire. That’s because to the south, the flames reached the Pit River. Watercraft, including the one that carried the ill firefighter to medical treatment, were in that area and secured defense lines along a portion of the river, the forest service said. Those boats were expected to continue suppression

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Attorney General Pam Bondi in February threatened disciplinary action against government lawyers who did not vigorously advocate for President Donald Trump’s agenda. KEN CEDENO/REUTERS FILE

Unit defending Trump policies loses staff

Lawyers cite workload for wave of departures

Andrew Goudswaard
REUTERS

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Justice Department unit charged with defending against legal challenges to signature Trump administration policies — such as restricting birthright citizenship and slashing funding to Harvard University — has lost nearly two-thirds of its staff, according to a list seen by Reuters. Sixty-nine of the roughly 110 lawyers in the Federal Programs Branch have voluntarily left the unit since President Donald Trump’s election in November 2024 or have announced plans to leave, according to the list compiled by former Justice Department lawyers and reviewed by Reuters. The tally has not been previously reported. Using court records and LinkedIn ac-

counts, Reuters was able to verify the departure of all but four names on the list. Reuters spoke to four former lawyers in the unit and three other people familiar with the departures who said some staffers had grown demoralized and exhausted defending an onslaught of lawsuits against Trump’s administration. “Many of these people came to work at Federal Programs to defend aspects of our constitutional system,” said one lawyer who left the unit during Trump’s second term. “How could they participate in the project of tearing it down?” Critics have accused the Trump administration of flouting the law in its aggressive use of executive power, including by retaliating against perceived enemies and dismantling agencies created by Congress. The Trump administration has broadly defended its actions as within the legal bounds of presidential power and has won several early victories at the Supreme Court. A White House spokesperson told Reuters that Trump’s actions were legal, and declined to comment on the

departures. “Any sanctimonious career bureaucrat expressing faux outrage over the President’s policies while sitting idly by during the rank weaponization by the previous administration has no grounds to stand on,” White House spokesperson Harrison Fields said in a statement. The seven lawyers who spoke with Reuters cited a punishing workload and the need to defend policies that some felt were not legally justifiable among the key reasons for the wave of departures. Three of them said some career lawyers feared they would be pressured to misrepresent facts or legal issues in court, a violation of ethics rules that could lead to professional sanctions. All spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal dynamics and avoid retaliation. A Justice Department spokesperson said lawyers in the unit are fighting an “unprecedented number of lawsuits” against Trump’s agenda. See STAFF, Page 2A

SHASTA COUNTY

West Nile virus found in area mosquitoes

Jessica Skropanic
Redding Record Searchlight
USA TODAY NETWORK

West Nile virus showed up in Shasta County mosquitoes for the first time in 2025, according to Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District, putting people at risk of being bitten and catching the disease. A batch of the biting bugs captured by the agency in northeastern Redding tested positive for West Nile on Thursday, July 10, said Vector District Manager Darcy Little. That prompted the district to ramp up efforts to slow mosquitoes spreading the disease, stopping them where they often live. Mosquitoes that carry the West Nile virus and other diseases thrive in wet environments (ponds, bird bathes, outdoor pet dishes, etc.) in places where temperatures soar into triple digits, like Redding and Anderson. However, they can show up in all parts of Shasta County, Little said. Over the past two years, the first mosquitoes carrying West Nile that season were trapped in Shingletown and Burney. The single case of West Nile found in a human in 2024 came from the Burney Basin, too, according to Little, but there have so far been no human cases in Shasta County in 2025. The mosquito-borne virus — which causes disease in humans, birds and horses — can make people very sick, in rare situations killing those infected.

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Good morning!
Margaret Teske

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