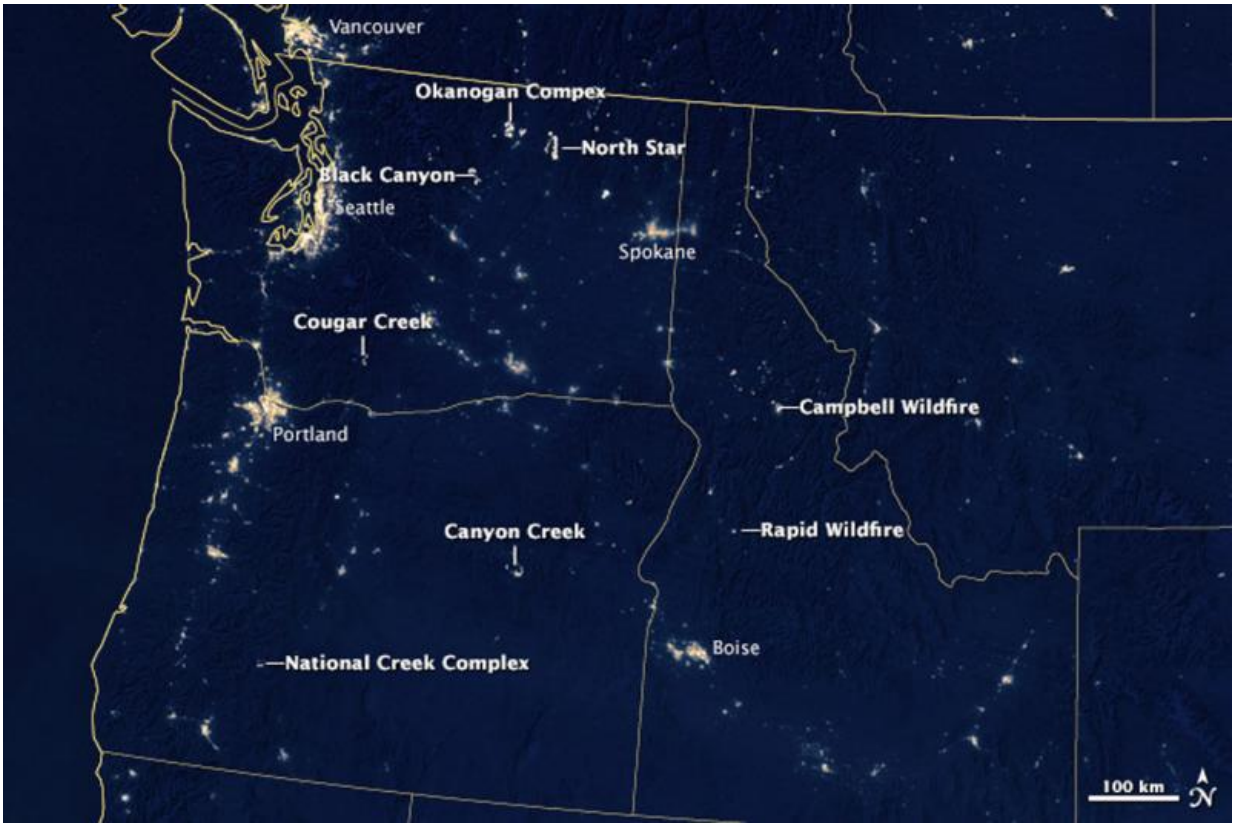
Image: Northwestern fires by night

August 24 2015



In summer 2015, wildfires raged across the western United States and Alaska. Many of those fires burned in the U.S. Northwest, visible in this image from late August, 2015.

This image was acquired in the early morning local time on August 19

with the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) sensor on the Suomi NPP satellite. The image was made possible by the instrument's "day-night band," which uses filtering techniques to observe dim signals including those from wildfires. Labels point to the large, actively burning fires in the region.

According to the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center, the Okanogan Complex Fire in Washington was among the larger active fires; as of August 20, the fire had burned 91,314 acres (370 square kilometers, or 143 square miles). In Oregon, the Canyon Creek Complex Fire had burned 48,201 acres (195 square kilometers, or 75 square miles), destroyed 26 residences and threatened another 500. Both fires were less than 40 percent contained. Meanwhile, firefighters have made progress on the large, damaging Cornet-Windy Ridge Fire in Oregon, which as of August 20 was 70 percent contained; smoke from this fire is more visible in earlier images.

More information: NASA Earth Observatory (2015, August 16) Fires in the Pacific Northwest: earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Natu … 31&eocn=home&eoci=nh

Northwest Interagency Coordination Center (2015, August 20) Northwest Large Fire Information Summary. Accessed August 21, 2015: gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/information/fire_info.aspx

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