

Fighting fire by air



Photos by Don Nelson

ABOVE: Freestone Lake was the go-to source for firefighting helicopters last weekend as they battled blazes west of Mazama. **BELOW:** While some helicopters pull up buckets of water from lakes and rivers, this craft used a big hose dunked in Freestone Lake to suck water into a holding tank.



Photo by Ryan Bell

A firefighting helicopter dumped a bucket of water on one of the three fires being targeted west of Mazama last weekend. Fixed-wing aircraft including tankers dropping flame retardants were also part of the aerial force assembled to tackle the fires.



Photo by Don Nelson

The late afternoon sun was filtered by a dense smoke plume on Sunday, as crews battled three fires west of Mazama. This picture was taken at the Cedar Creek Trailhead entrance on Highway 20.



Photo by Dave Acheson

A float plane descended on Patterson Lake last weekend to fill its pontoons with water that would be dumped on fires that broke out west of Mazama. The air activity didn't prevent swimmers from taking advantage of the lake's cool waters on a hot afternoon. Firefighting efforts on the ground and from the air continued this week.