



Montrose Interagency

Fire Management

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Bureau of Land Management • Colorado State Forest Service • National Park Service • US Forest Service

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New Fire Use Fire Burning On the Uncompahgre Plateau

Montrose, CO (July 31, 2008) – The Montrose Interagency Fire Management Unit (MIFMU) reported that a “Fire Use” fire is being managed on the Norwood Ranger District of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest. The Albin Fire is currently about 120 acres in size, burning in a former mechanically-treated area of pinion-juniper and oakbrush. No private lands or structures are threatened and the closest private lands are 3.5 to 4 miles away from the fire. Landowners in the area have been notified of the Fire Use tactics being used and are supportive of the effort.

The fire began with a lightning strike and was reported late in the evening on July 25. Not much burning occurred on the site until July 30, when the fire grew to its current size. The fire is located in Albin Draw on the Sanborn Park side of Horsefly Canyon, approximately 6 air miles north/northeast of the town of Norwood.

“There is no predicted change in weather for the week and the fire falls within the parameters of the fire management plan for the area, so we are monitoring it and doing some ground work to keep the fire from entering into either San Miguel or Horsefly Canyons,” according to Steve Ellis, Fire Use Manager for MIFMU. “In fact, this burn is accomplishing needed work in the mechanically-treated area that was identified as a prescribed burn which needed to occur in the future.”

Resources assigned to the fire include a bulldozer and operator, a wildland fire engine with crew, an incident commander, a Fire Use Manager and a Fire Use Manager Trainee.

http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2mtc/

Fire Use fires are those which begin through natural causes (e.g. lightning) which are not immediately suppressed, and are deemed appropriate by qualified line officers and fire management officials to allow fire to continue to burn, with monitoring, to accomplish resource management objectives. The most recent local example of a Fire Use fire is the Coal Creek Fire that burned on National Forest System lands in the Kannah Creek Watershed which supplies water for the City of Grand Junction.

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