

Beaver Creek Fire

June 23, 2016 Evening Release

Contact: Public Information Office

Rocky Mountain Incident Management Blue Team

Information Line: 307-223-2291

Media Information Line: 307-223-2220

Hours 8am-8pm



Beaver Creek Fire transfers to Type II Incident Management Team

(WALDEN, Colo.) June 23, 2016 – Rocky Mountain Incident Management Blue Team (Esperance) assumed command of the fire at 6:00 a.m. today. The fire remained active with some spotting however it did not grow significantly. The fire, which began last Sunday on the Medicine Bow - Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland, is firmly established on Bureau of Land Management-managed Independence Mountain. Initial response was by U.S. Forest Service, State, County engines.

Air resources and dozers were used to assist with spot fire containment and extinguishment today. Ground resources monitored the fire and scouted for good locations to build fire line. Firefighters also mopped up hot spots near structures and continued prepping structures in advance of the fire. The fire has burned 5368 acres.

The fire remains active at night with erratic winds creating spot fires and flare ups. Efforts will continue for structure protection and patrolling for spot fires. Night temperatures will range between 46-51 F and with 10mph winds expected. Incident Commander Jay Esperance said “firefighter and public safety will remain a top priority when evaluating values at risk and directing firefighting tactics.”

The forecasted temperature for Friday is 73-78 F, with light winds from the west/southwest to 15 mph, and a chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon gusting to 40 mph.

The fire is burning primarily in heavy timber with a high percentage of beetle kill and in some areas of grass and sagebrush. The beetle kill in the burn area is a significant safety hazard for direct fire attack and as a result this fire will be a long term event with smoke visible to the surrounding communities.

Fire location is approximately 15 miles northwest of Walden, Colo. and two miles south of the Colorado/Wyoming state line.

Forty residences or cabins remain at risk from the fire. Concerned cabin owners or local residents should contact the Jackson County Sheriff's Department at 970-723-4242.

Closures are in place for the following areas/recreation sites/roads: Big Creek Lakes Recreation Area (including both upper and lower Big Creek Lake, and Big Creek Lakes Campground), the area east of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness boundary, south of Forest Road 681 and south of Forest Road 80. All of Independence Mountain is closed, Beaver Creek and Seven Lakes Trailheads, County Road 6W, as well as Forest Roads 80 (Hog Park Road), 600, 681, and 689.

The cause of the Beaver Creek Fire remains under investigation, and anyone with information on suspicious activity this past weekend in the Twisty Park area should contact U.S. Forest Service Officer Hannah Nadeau, 307-343-2335. The initial vehicle sought in the investigation has been cleared of suspicion.

Official information on the fire is being disseminated via Inciweb, <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4797/>.

Information will also be posted on Twitter at: @FS_MBRTB, hashtag #BeaverCreekFire. Facebook: Beaver Creek Fire

###