

Beaver Creek Fire

June 27, 2016

Morning Release

Contact: Public Information Office

Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team Blue

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Hours 8am-8pm



Fire Behavior Remains Active on Beaver Creek Fire

(WALDEN, Colo.) June 27, 2016 – The Beaver Creek Fire burned actively overnight with spot fires and ignitions in pockets of unburned fuel. The acres burned increased to 6235. Low humidity and wind increased fire behavior near structures; however firefighters used sprinklers and burn out operations for defense.

An inversion blanketed the fire overnight. Local morning winds will lift the inversion and surrounding communities may see and smell smoke, including Laramie, WY. Northwest winds ranging from 5-10 mph gusting to 15 mph are expected to increase fire activity as the afternoon progresses. Temperatures today will range from 75-80F at different elevations on the fire. Humidity remains low and the combination of warm temperatures and low humidity increases the speed and intensity at which trees and brush ignite and burn.

Firefighters remain vigilant defending structures as the fire advances. Today engine crews will continue to prepare buildings for possible fire growth and defend structures as the fire advances. Contingency lines are being built in locations with the highest probability of success. Most of the fire necessitates indirect attack due to the high component of standing beetle killed trees. Firefighters have air tankers (airplanes) and helicopters available to slow advancing fire growth and cool hot spots as the day progresses.

The combination of low humidity, northwest winds down drainages and fuels available to burn are increasing fire behavior and risk. Deputy Incident Commander Rob Powell tasked supervisors, “explain to the firefighters you lead, why this fire is different from many you have seen before. Think about why the tactics being used are employed; for your safety. Make sure you and your crews perform with a safe heads up approach considering at all times increasing fire behavior and risk while performing tasks.”

The Jackson County Sheriff’s Office announced that two outbuildings have been lost in the fire. An outbuilding is defined as a building separate from the main building, such as a shed. All residential structures within and near the fire perimeter have been saved to date.

Sixty residences or cabins remain at risk. As the fire advances the number of residences in advance of the fire has increased. Concerned cabin owners or local residents should contact the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office at (970) 723-4242. Structure damage/loss information will be provided by the Sheriff.

Closures remain in place and specific information can be found at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4797/>.

The cause of the Beaver Creek Fire remains under investigation. Anyone with information on suspicious activity should contact U.S. Forest Service Officer Hannah Nadeau, 307-343-2335.

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.

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