

## **Beaver Creek Fire**

**June 29, 2016**

### **Morning Release**

Contact: Public Information Office

Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team Blue

**Information Line: 307-223-2291**

**Media Information Line: 307-223-2220**

Hours 8am-8pm



### **Beaver Creek Fire Grows, Firefighters Use Fire, Weather and Helicopters to Manage Suppression**

(WALDEN, Colo.) June 29, 2016 – Yesterday the Beaver Creek Fire advanced on the west, east and south sides growing to 11,776 acres. On the west edge the wind pushed into the fire, slowing growth and helping clean out unburned fuel on the edge. The southern edge of the fire remained active and firefighters today will use aerial suppression tactics to burn out unburned fuels. On the east edge firefighters continue monitoring spot fires remaining from yesterday afternoon’s wind shift.

In the Mount Zirkel Wilderness area, the crews will not directly engage the fire; rather they will patrol and assist Forest Service Staff informing recreationists of area closure. Currently, crews are actively suppressing the fire outside of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness around the values at risk (structures). Available resources have been prioritized and are being used appropriately, where they can be most successful. If the fire passes outside of Mount Zirkel Wilderness in a new location, we will suppress the fire using resources that minimize firefighter risk and have the highest chance of success.

From helicopters, firefighters will ignite small fires in a grid pattern in unburned areas on the fire interior and edges. As each small fire burns trees and brush, it removes the fuel available joining small burned areas together. This management technique assists in suppression by removing unburned pockets of fuel and maintaining moderate fire intensity. Weather and fuel conditions are predicted to be favorable for aerial ignition tactics and are predicted to be good for these tactics today but will be monitored. Helicopters also aid ground firefighters with bucket drops of water as they use fire to remove vegetation from near buildings.

Structure defense has remained a focus for firefighters and as the fire advances those resources will expand their efforts to buildings further south and east. Today Parsons Draw will have increased structure preparation activity. Bulldozers continue to build and fortify contingency lines as part of management objectives. As fire intensity moderates Deputy Incident Commander Rob Powell reminded firefighters, “while you have been very successful on the fire and the fire behavior is moderating, keep your situational awareness up as the fire is still active. Your safety is a priority.”

Weather: Partly cloudy conditions with a 50% chance of afternoon thunderstorms after 2 pm. Temperatures ranging from 76-81F and humidity ranging from 17-23% will help moderate fire activity. Winds will shift from northwest to southwest in the afternoon.

#### Fire Facts:

Acres Burned: 11,776

Firefighters Assigned: 514

Percent Completion: 5%

Located 15 miles northwest of Walden, CO

Evacuation Orders remain in place.

Information regarding structure damage or loss, call Jackson County Sheriff's Office 970-723-4242

Cause under investigation: information or tips call U.S. Forest Service Officer Hannah Nadeau 307-343-2335

Closures orders for U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands can be found at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4797/>

Information posting: Twitter at: @FS\_MBRTB, hashtag #BeaverCreekFire. Facebook: Beaver Creek Fire.

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

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