



U.S. Forest Service
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests
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News Release

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Baldwin Fire Update

July 28, 2016 at 3:30 p.m.

Location:

- Black Mesa Ranger District
- 4-5 miles south of Heber-Overgaard

Discovery Date: July 19, 2016

Size: Approximately 1,000 acres

Percent Contained: 10%

Location: Perimeter of fire is bound by FR 50, 50A, 166, 487

Cause: Lightning

Resources Assigned: Two Type 6 Engines

Summary: The Baldwin Fire is not a threat to the communities of Heber and Overgaard. Crews has been blacklining around the perimeter of the fire. Due to this activity, increased smoke is very visible from the community at times, and smoke may drift into Heber, Overgaard, Forest Lakes, Highway 260 and surrounding areas throughout the weekend. Fire is burning in the Rodeo/Chediski burn area.

Each fire is carefully considered with an extensive process that includes consideration of potential short- and long-term smoke impacts to communities. The intent is to re-introduce fire back into the adapted environment, enhance overall forest health, reduce hazardous fuel loads, and protect valued resources while providing for firefighter and public safety first.

Objectives for this strategy include using low to moderate intensity fire with occasional high severity intensities to consume accumulations of dead and down woody debris from the forest floor. Additionally, burning off the understory fuels help raise the canopy heights of the older trees ultimately protecting them from being lost to a potential catastrophic fire event in the future.

There are a number of additional benefits for allowing fire to burn in a natural setting, which include protection of wildlife habitat, historic heritage sites, vital watersheds, critical infrastructure, and residential expansions that fall within the urban interface where human developments meet the forest. Soils also become replenished with nutrients as burnt organic material decomposes into the ground stimulating new growth of native forbs and grasses.

Fire Information: Further information on this incident is available on Inciweb at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4880/>; 311 via your mobile device, landline 928.333.3412, https://twitter.com/A_SNFs and <https://www.facebook.com/apachesitgreavesnfs>.