



News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &
Thunder Basin National Grassland
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>

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Snake Fire at 2,659 Acres, Area Closure in Place

(SARATOGA, Wyo.) Sept. 12, 2016 – Better mapping of the Snake Fire was established on Monday and aerial vantage points helped fire managers determine that the wildfire in southern Carbon Co., Wyo. is now approximately 2,659 acres.

A temporary area closure was put in place by Forest Supervisor Dennis Jaeger that encompasses Medicine Bow National Forest lands which are considered at risk, should the fire continue to grow in size.

Fire personnel spent much of Sunday and Monday notifying nearby landowners, grazing permittees, hunters, campers, and outfitter/guides of the fire location and the area closure. Details are still in the works to establish protocol for those who need to enter the area to retrieve personal property.

With bow season for big-game underway in Wyoming, many of the public affected by the area closure are hunters. Hunters can access the closure order and a map of public lands in the Sierra Madre Range that are temporarily closed to access due to the Snake Fire on Inciweb: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5023/>. For all other hunting questions pertaining to the affected areas contact Wyoming Game & Fish employees Tony Mong 307-383-2041 or Kim Olson 307-383-2160.

The cause of the Snake Fire is under investigation by USFS Law Enforcement. Anyone with potentially useful information from this past weekend in the area just east of Forest Road 851.1F should contact USFS Officer Hannah Nadeau, 307-343-2335. The cause of the Snake Fire is unrelated to the causes of the Beaver Creek and Broadway Fires.

The origin of the Snake Fire is five miles southeast of Battle Creek Dispersed Campground and two miles north of the Wyoming/Colorado state line. It is burning in mixed conifer and aspen, with some dead component. On Sunday, the fire pushed east and northeast nearly four miles.

Currently 124 personnel are assigned to the Snake Fire. This includes four helicopters, two Type I hand crews, one Type II hand crew, and multiple engines. Additional resources have been ordered.

On Monday, firefighters focused their efforts on a section of private land directly east of the fire. Six structures, including one residence, are at risk on the private land. The fire has already burned a corner of that private land and crews worked to limit the spread by constructing containment line. Efforts were also made to discourage fire growth to the south, where there is more private land and structures at risk.

The overall approach on the Snake Fire will be the same as the Beaver Creek and Broadway Fires, with full suppression as the ultimate goal, engaging the fire where there is the best probability of success, and protecting resources at risk.

To date no injuries have been reported as a result of the Snake Fire and no structures have been destroyed.

The Snake Fire was reported on Saturday evening, Sept. 10, with aggressive initial response by U.S. Forest Service and Carbon County resources. Originally estimated at 30 acres, the fire grew rapidly to the east, fanned by west winds near 30 mph and hot, dry conditions.

The weather forecast for the remainder of this week calls for cooler temperatures in the 60s and a chance of precipitation, Tues.-Thurs.

Official information on the fire is being disseminated via Inciweb,
<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5023/>.

Information will also be posted on Twitter at: **@FS_MBRTB**, hashtag **#SnakeFire**.

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