



News Release

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

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Cooler Weather Slows Down Snake Fire

(SARATOGA, Wyo.) Sept. 13, 2016 – Helped by cooler weather and more stable winds, firefighters on the Snake Fire began to make progress Tuesday on the southern flank. Fireline construction, structure protection, and scouting in advance of the wildfire were priorities for personnel.

Acreage burned in southern Carbon Co., Wyo., on the Medicine Bow National Forest, remained at approximately 2,659 acres, with occasional flare-ups occurring during Tuesday's operational period.

A management transition from the current Type III organization to the Phoenix NIMO Team will take place at the start of Thursday's operational shift. The NIMO team is currently managing the Beaver Creek and Broadway Fires, and will incorporate operations for the Snake Fire into a three-fire complex.

A temporary area closure was put in place Monday, which encompasses at-risk National Forest lands surrounding the fire.

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

Fire behavior is expected to remain moderate over the next few days due to cooler temperatures, higher humidity, and a chance of precipitation. Increased temperatures forecasted for the weekend could bring higher potential for fire spread.

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 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.

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. Managers on the Snake Fire want to limit spread to the south and east.

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.

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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