

Middle Fork Fire Fact Sheet

10/4/2020

Acres: 8,720

Fire Information phone line: 970-439-4725

Incident Commander: Kelly Boyd, Type 3 IMT

Inciweb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7153/>

Today's Situation: The Middle Fork Fire is burning in relatively isolated patches in several places along the perimeter where single and small group tree torching is occurring. Borderline critical fire weather conditions are forecast on Sunday, but relative humidities likely remain just above critical fire weather threshold. Temperatures are projected above normal through the extended forecasted. Full suppression tactics employed include using helicopters to keep fire growth in check using bucket drops of water to cool the intensity of the small group torching. There may be smoke in the Steamboat Springs area due to shifting winds. Fire managers and the National Forest regularly evaluate the extent of the area closure and will adjust it to reduce impacts to public land users when they are confident it is safe to do so. Large plumes of smoke visible high in the sky are very likely from the Mullen Fire which is more than 27 miles to the northeast of the Middle Fork Fire.

Weather: Sunny skies with highs between 64-68 degrees and relative humidity of 17 - 22%. Winds are out of the southwest to west at 10-15 mph. Gusts up to 25 mph in the afternoon. Tonight, clear skies with lows between 35-40 degrees and relative humidity between 45-50% with west winds at 5-10 mph with a few gusts up to 20 mph in the early morning.

Fire Behavior: Mild to moderate with backing, smoldering, and isolated/group torching events.

Firefighting Resources: Approximately 87 personnel are assigned to the fire, including four helicopters (two Type 1 and two Type 3) and a fixed-wing air attack to help coordinate aerial operations.

Evacuations: There are no evacuation or pre-evacuation orders in effect. If the fire were to reach any pre-identified management action points, it would trigger Routt County Sheriff's Office to initiate pre-evacuation orders through their reverse-911 system. To sign up for alerts, visit <http://routtcountyalerts.com>. The county provides tips for wildfire preparedness, including planning for pets and livestock, on their website at <http://www.co.routt.co.us/309/Fire-Safety-Tips-for-Rural-Residents>.

Forest Closure: Routt National Forest has issued an area closure. The closure boundary follows Mount Zirkel Wilderness boundary on east. On the south it follows Trail 1132 (Newcomb Creek), Trail 1101 (CDNST), the Wilderness boundary, and Trails 1100 (Swamp Park), 1140 (Saddle), 1140.1A (Saddle Cut-off), and 1171 (Red Dirt). On the west it follows the boundary between National Forest and private lands east of Big Creek from Red Dirt Trailhead to Trail 1176 (Roaring Fork) and continues north along the Wilderness boundary. On the north it follows the North Fork Drainage up to The Dome, east to Lost Ranger Peak, CDNST, and Trail 1131 (Lost Ranger). Trails 1131, 1132, 1166, and 1140 are open. Portion of Trails 1100 and 1171 are open where they follow the closure boundary, closed where they enter the closed area. No roads or trailheads are closed.

Closed trails include:

- Appx. 10 miles of CDNST from 1132 to 1131
- 1130 Rainbow Lake
- 1179 Roxy Ann Lake
- 1099 Ditch Creek
- 1100 and 1100.4A Swamp Park (within Wilderness Area only)
- 1118 Elk Park
- 1168 Luna Lake
- 1168.1 Fish Hawk Lake
- 1170 Chilton
- 1182 Craggs
- 1184 Big Creek Lake
- 1171 Red Dirt past Trail 1140 intersection

Fire Restrictions: Stage 2 Fire Restrictions are in effect in Routt and Jackson counties, on all of the Routt National Forest, and across much of Northwest Colorado.