



U.S. Forest Service
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests
30 South Chiricahua Drive
Springerville, AZ 85938
Web: www.fs.usda.gov/asnf
Twitter: [@ASNFs](https://twitter.com/ASNFs)

News Release

Media Contact:
Steve Johnson
928-339-5000
steven.m.johnson@usda.gov

Cow Canyon Fire Update October 08, 2020

Location of Origin: Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, Alpine Ranger District
Start Date: August 18, 2020 **Size:** Approximately 18,903 Acres
Cause: Lightning **Percent Contained:** 12
Personnel: 13 **Resources Assigned:** 1

Springerville, AZ – October 08, 2020 – The Cow Canyon Fire is being managed with preference for a full suppression strategy and point protection when needed. Point protection involves identifying values at risk and deploying specific tactics to safeguard them from being impacted by the fire.

Operations: Today firefighters will be scouting for natural holding features and identifying a point protection strategy for the private properties on the Blue. Trigger points have been established near some of the ranches on the Blue and fire managers are ready to deploy resources if needed. It's important to note that the Cow Canyon fire is burning in light to moderate ground fuels with some isolated torching, and is not experiencing the same extreme fire behavior as some of the wildfires that are currently burning in other western states. Due to the nature of fuels involved, it is not anticipated that the level of fire activity will increase significantly in the foreseeable future.

News: The complexity of the fire has increased to involve multiple jurisdictions across two states and two national forests. The increased jurisdictional complexity has prompted the need to transfer command to a type 3 incident commander in the coming days, and other firefighting resources have been ordered. The Cow Canyon fire has been burning since August with minimal changes in management actions. As a result, informational updates will be provided less frequently unless conditions change.

Values at risk: Primary objectives are to provide protection for private property, cultural resources and historical sites. Thanks to successful firefighting operations, no identified values at risk have been impacted by the fire.

Closures: Some recreational trails are closed for public health and safety due to wildland fire activities along the trails. The affected trails, temporary closure order and map can be found at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/asnf/alerts-notices/?cid=stelprd3793918>.

Weather: Today's forecast is calling for highs near 83 degrees and light winds. The warm and drying trend is expected to continue with no precipitation in the near-term forecast.

Safety: Smoke may be visible in Springerville, Alpine, Clifton, and western New Mexico. Air quality can be found on the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's webpage at <https://azdeq.gov/>.

Information: Updates can be found on the official incident page at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7158/>.

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