

Middle Fork Fire Fact Sheet

Acres: 17,832

Fire Information phone line: 970-439-4725

10/12/2020

Incident Commander: Jeramy Dietz, Type 3 IMT

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

Today's Situation: The snow over the Middle Fork Fire yesterday brought colder temperatures with higher relative humidities, thus reduced fire behavior and the spread of the fire. However, the extended forecast is predicting temperatures to warm up by end of next week. The major concern today is the 35-40 mph gusts this afternoon. Expect smoke to return to the Steamboat Springs area by mid-week resulting from the Mullen, Cameron Peak and Middle Fork fires. Fire managers and the National Forest increased the extent of the area closure yesterday due to the public accessing areas within the closure area. Please abide by of the closed area for your safety and the safety of the firefighters. Fixed wing airtankers are scooping water out of Lake John when conditions allow and attacking the southern and eastern flanks successfully. Please do not boat on Lake John so firefighting efforts can continue uninterrupted. Several more resources are arriving so you may see more firefighters in the community. There will be more engines and other equipment along or near the Buffalo Pass road, Dry Lake Trailhead (TH), Summit Park TH, Elk Park TH, and NFSR 314; please give firefighters space to do their work. The entire Forest Road 314 (Elk Park Rd) is closed to the public. The helicopters continue to drop water on the fire along the east, west and northwest flanks of the fire. Please be aware of the additional trails and roads that are now closed.

First rifle season is ongoing, so please be cautious when recreating near the area closure for your safety and the safety of the firefighters.

Weather: Mostly sunny skies with highs near 52 degrees and relative humidity of 22-27%. Winds blowing out of the west at 10 to 15 mph by 10:00 am increasing to 15 to 25 mph with gust to 35 to 40 mph by 1:00 pm. Clear night skies with lows between 30-35 degrees and relative humidity of 51-56% with winds out of the west at 15 mph with gusts to around 24 mph decreasing to 5 mph overnight.

Fire Behavior: Moderate with some torching events with flanking and backing fire towards the northeast, northwest and southeast.

Firefighting Resources: Approximately 161 personnel are assigned to the fire, including five helicopters (three Type 1, one type 2, and one Type 3), two single engine airtankers, and a fixed-wing air attack to help coordinate aerial operations.

Evacuations: There are no evacuation or pre-evacuation orders in effect for Routt County. Pre-evacs are in place in Jackson county for Rainbow Lakes, Aqua Fria, as well as Teal and Tiago Lakes areas. This is not intended for the Rainbow Lakes Community. That notification from Jackson County was primarily made for hunters, and ranchers with cattle in those areas. Not all management action points stimulate evacuations, however if the fire were to reach any pre-identified management action points that are evacuation related, it would trigger Routt and Jackson County Sheriff's Office to initiate pre-evacuation orders through their reverse-911 system. To sign up for alerts, visit <http://routtcountyalerts.com> or <https://jacksoncountyor.org/emergency/Resources/Citizen-Alert>. 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 that was updated on 10-11-2020. See the Closure Map and Closure Order posted on Inciweb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7153/> for further details.

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.