



News Release

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

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Owen Firefighters Continue To Construct Fireline, Area Closures Remain In Effect

(LARAMIE, Wyo.) July 10, 2014 – The Owen Fire remains 80 percent contained with fire managers optimistic that today’s forecast of evening rain showers will assist firefighter efforts. Fireline construction, with the aid of mechanical equipment, is taking place along the east side of the fire.

The wildfire is approximately 500 acres and located directly north of Lake Owen on the Medicine Bow National Forest.

There have been no firefighter injuries, nor have there been any structures burned. Firefighter and public safety remains the top priority of the incident.

The Lake Owen Campground and Day-Use Area sustained no damage; however, Lake Owen area closures continue for both firefighter and public safety.

“I’m happy firefighters were able to curb the Owen Fire’s growth safely, without any injuries.” said Laramie District Ranger Frank Romero. “It’s important to remember that we will be dealing with this fire and the necessary closures for the foreseeable future.”

There are pockets of unburned fuel within the fire perimeter and the public should expect to see smoke in the area for some time to come.

Helicopters remain available to assist firefighters if aerial resources are needed. Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities, which operates Lake Owen as part of their city water supply, authorized use of the water in the lake for fire suppression.

Forest Roads 517 and 540, which are immediately adjacent to the fire perimeter, remain closed and fire officials are discouraging the public from entering the area or other roads adjacent to the fire perimeter. A ‘No Unnecessary Travel’ restriction by the Albany County Sheriff’s Department is in place for Fox Creek Road to the east of the fire.

An emergency shelter remains available at Harmony School on WY Hwy 230.

The Owen Fire was discovered Monday afternoon burning primarily in large beetle-killed timber about 30 miles southwest of Laramie.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

As information becomes available, updates will be provided by Public Affairs staff from the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland on Twitter at:

@MBRNFsTBNG, hashtag #OwenFire and at InciWeb, <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3932/>.

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