



News Release

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

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La Bonte Canyon Fire Crews deal with Erratic Winds Saturday

(DOUGLAS, Wyo.) Aug. 8, 2015 – Passing thunderstorms and their gusty, erratic winds challenged fire crews Saturday on the La Bonte Canyon Fire. In spite of the occasional gusts, overall progress was made and fire size remained similar to Friday, growing minimally to 500 acres.

Additional hand crews and air resources are expected to arrive in the next day or two, which should aid in the construction and improvement of line around the fire. Containment was estimated at roughly 15% on Saturday evening.

62 personnel are currently working the fire, including two Type II crews and multiple engines. Air resources include two helicopters, two single-engine airtankers, and an air attack lead. The State of Wyoming, local agencies, and the USFS have all committed resources to the fire. Air attack will continue as weather and smoke conditions allow.

The fire continues to creep in the rough country, mainly to the northeast. Some short-range spotting and torching is occurring. The north edge of the fire is in rocky bluffs, which is limiting growth, but also limiting the use of ground crews.

Sunday's weather forecast calls for temperatures in the mid-70s, no chance of moisture, mostly sunny, with west winds at 10 mph and possible higher gusts. No measurable precipitation has fallen on the fire since discovery.

The La Bonte Canyon Fire is located on the far north boundary of Albany County, Wyo., on the Medicine Bow National Forest. The fire was discovered on Thursday afternoon and reported by the Black Mountain Fire Lookout.

It is burning in mixed conifer and is just south of the Converse County line. Terrain is rugged in the area, which is approximately 35 miles southwest of Douglas, Wyo., in the Laramie Range.

Curtis Gulch Campground, managed by the U.S. Forest Service, is one mile west of the fire and was evacuated Thursday evening. An emergency area closure has been put in place by the Forest Service and includes the campground, La Bonte Canyon Road (Forest Road 658), as well as multiple other area roads and trails.

Thus far the fire has remained on National Forest lands, but private lands are in close proximity in Converse County to the north. No structures are immediately threatened.

The cause of the fire is unknown and under investigation. The U.S. Forest Service is managing this fire with a full suppression strategy.

Information updates will be provided by Public Affairs staff from the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland, and can be found on InciWeb, <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4462/>, and on Twitter at **@FS_MBRTB**, hashtag **#LaBonteCanyonFire**.

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