



NEWS RELEASE

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests Thunder Basin National Grassland

Date: Sept. 8, 2010

Contact: Diann Ritschard
970-870-2187
970-819-2898 (cell)

Illinois Creek Fire at 112 acres

(Laramie, Wyo.) Sept. 8, 2010 (10 a.m.) – The Illinois Creek Fire, about four miles west of Fox Park, which is about 37 miles from Laramie Wyoming, has grown to 112 acres. The fire is on the Medicine Bow National Forest. It was reported at 2:30 Sept. 7.

Forest Service Fire Management Officer Vern Bentley said two Type I air tankers were diverted from the Fourmile Canyon Fire near Boulder to the Illinois Creek fire. “They made retardant drops on the south flank of the fire to help stop it from moving towards the community of Fox Borough.”

The Albany County Volunteer Fire Department did structure protection for the homes yesterday before the aircraft arrived. Residents of the 40 homes, most of which are second homes, were evacuated yesterday. Homeowners may call the Albany County Sheriff's Hotline at 307-721-1830 for more information about structures.

The fire is burning in dead lodgepole pine. There are 80 firefighters from the Forest Service and Albany County on scene as well as the following equipment:

- 2 Forest Service dozers
- 2 Type 1 aircraft (fire retardant)
- 2 Type III helicopters (dropping water)
- 3 Forest Service Type 6 Engines
- 5 Albany County Engines
- 2 Albany County water tenders
- 1 Nature Conservancy fuels module
- 1 dedicated fixed wing aircraft, doing reconnaissance

The management strategy is full suppression of the fire. It's about 5% contained with no estimated time of full containment. Bentley said the fire is not moving much this morning but if it moves because of winds, it will likely go north.

The weather forecast for today is southwest winds and thunderstorms this afternoon. “Hopefully wet thunderstorms,” said Bentley.

Forest Service Road 512 (off of State Highway 230) is closed at Forest Service Road 517 going west.

* * * *