



Montrose Interagency Fire Management Unit

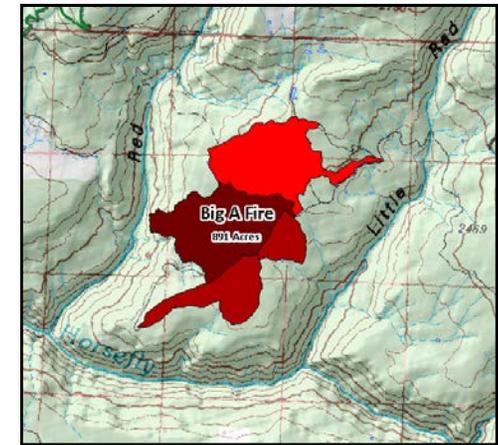
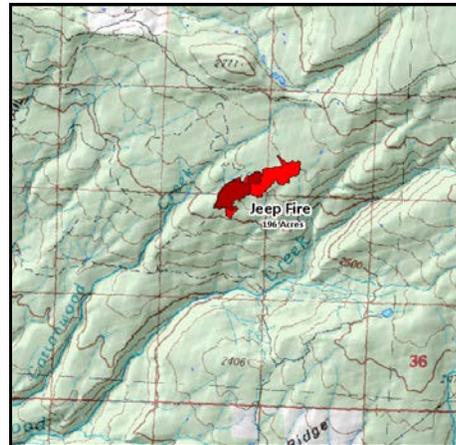
Fire Update - 08/15/2011



Big A Fire

Reported: August 3, 2011
 Cause: Lightning
 Location: Approximately 10 miles NE of Norwood on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forest—Norwood Ranger District
 Threats: None
 Size: 891 acres

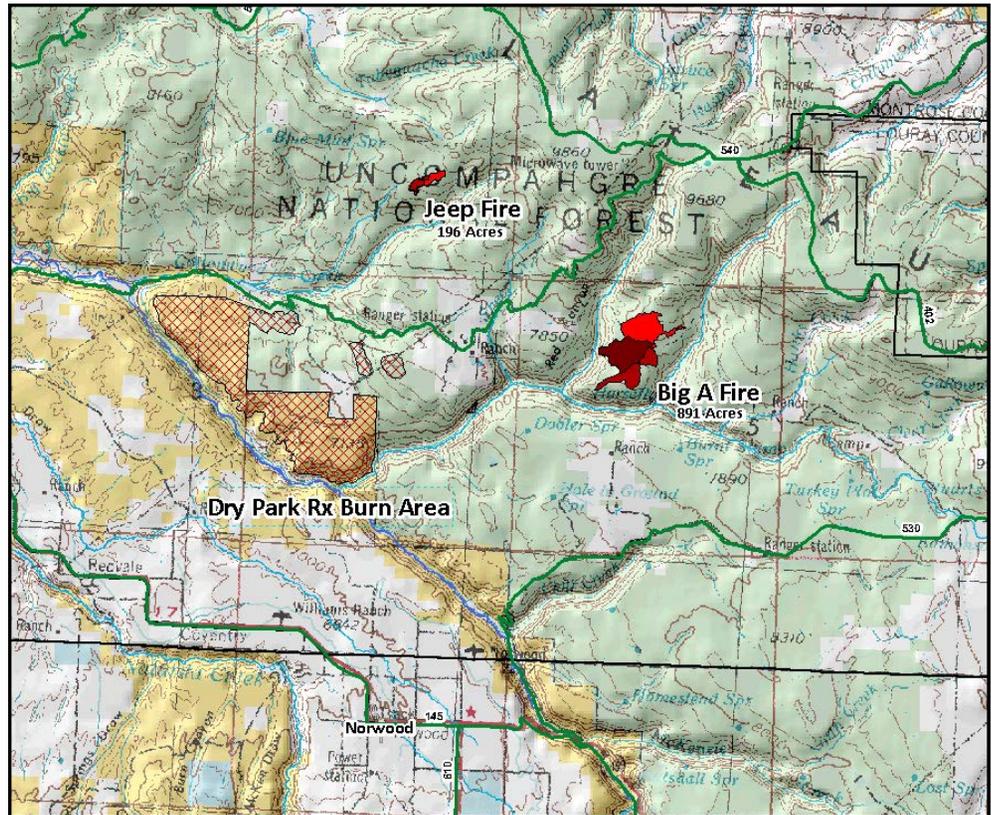
The Big A Fire is burning between Red and Little Red Canyons – north of Horseshy Creek.



Jeep Fire

Reported: July 19, 2011
 Cause: Lightning
 Location: Approximately 12 miles N of Norwood on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forest—Norwood Ranger District
 Threats: None
 Size: 196 acres

The fire is burning between Cottonwood and Little Cottonwood Creeks.



In addition to the ongoing management of both the Big A and Jeep Fires, the Montrose Interagency Fire Management Unit (MIFMU) will begin preparing for, and possibly igniting, the Dry Park Prescribed Burn as early as today. The Dry Park burn, located 6 miles N of Norwood, is a follow-up activity to previous mechanical fuel treatments in pinyon-juniper vegetation. The purpose of this project is to improve wildlife habitat, protect power lines in the area, and to create a more natural, fire-influenced vegetation mosaic on this landscape. The Dry Park project is targeting 335 acres of burning.

Fire has been a vital force shaping vegetation across the landscape in SW Colorado, particularly in ponderosa pine, pinyon-juniper woodland, and mountain shrub communities. Much of this ecosystem evolved with fire and is fire dependent – that is, fire is essential to sustaining the function and health of the ecosystem.

For information on wildfires and restrictions in the area, call the MIFMU Fire Information line (970.240.1070), visit the MIFMU website (http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2mtc/), or follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/MIFMU>).