



Arapaho Fire

Fire Information Update

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Contact: Public Information Office 1-307-298-0556

Monday, July 9, 2012 – 9:00 a.m. MST Fire Status Update

Fire	Acres	% Contained	Total Personnel
Arapaho	95,206*	75%	827

*Decrease in acreage due to cross referencing GPS data with infrared flight data to obtain more accurate information

News & Events for the Arapaho Fire:

- The assessment team has completed all property damage assessments for Albany County.
- A public meeting will be held at the Platte County Fairgrounds 4H Building in Wheatland on Tuesday, July 10 at 6:30 p.m. to provide information on property damage assessments for Platte and Albany Counties and a long-term plan for management of the Arapaho Fire for the areas near Laramie Peak and Eagle Peak.
- State and local governments and federal agencies are planning for long-term staffing of the fire.
- A trend towards warmer and drier weather will begin today.
- Several roads in the area remain closed due to fire operations and the concern for public safety.
- The Joint Information Center has closed due to a low volume of calls, please call Platte County Emergency Management for information at 307-322-2140.

Arapaho Fire: Yesterday, the Redding Hotshots were transported via helicopter to work on hotspots in the Hensel Burn. Crews responded to and contained a new start east of Esterbrook. Hotshot crews continue to work on a stretch of open line from Eagle Peak south to Cow Creek Mountain on the W flank where the terrain is extremely rugged and difficult to access; a helicopter is parked on a helispot medivac site on Eagle Peak for rapid response if needed. On the E flank, crews continue to mop up and patrol. Structure protection is complete for Cottonwood and is expected to be done by end of shift today in Friend Park. The rehabilitation group is scouting around structures and interior lines to assess rehabilitation needs.

As the actions on the W flank are completed over the next few days, the only open line will extend across the extremely steep and rocky western face of Laramie Peak, from the Friend Creek drainage north to just below the peak. The long term analysis will include management action points under different weather scenarios to inform future decisions about management of the fire. It is unlikely the Arapaho Fire will be fully contained in this section until a season ending weather event. Throughout the remainder of fire season, Laramie Peak will need to be constantly monitored.

Road Closures:

- Harris Park Road closed at Cottonwood Park Road and Fish Creek Road
- Garrett Road closed at Palmer Canyon Road and Fetterman Road (County Rd 61)
- Esterbrook Road closed at Fetterman Road and Braae Road

Closures: All Forest Service lands, recreation sites, roads and trails east of Esterbrook Road. Trails include Laramie Peak Trail (#602); North Laramie River Trail (#625); Friend Park Trail (#609); Harris Park Trail (#616); Roaring Fork Trail (#623); and Laramie Peak Trailhead, North Laramie Trailhead; recreation sites closed include Esterbrook Campground and Friend Park Campground.

Restrictions: For current fire restrictions, visit the Wyoming interagency fire restrictions website at http://www.wy.blm.gov/wy_fire_restrictions/

Donations: Thank you for supporting the firefighters with donations. Please do not deliver any donations to the fire camp on Fish Creek Road. To make donations, call 1-307-331-8660

FIRE FACTS:

Arapaho Fire: Started: June 27, 2012 **Cause:** Lightning **Location:** 28 miles NW of Wheatland, WY. **Resources:** A total of 827 personnel assigned to the fire, including 5 hotshot crews, 11 hand crews, 4 assigned helicopters, 2 fixed wing aircraft, 91 engines, 8 dozers and 18 water tenders.

SAFETY CONCERNS: Changing weather conditions, steep and rugged terrain, weakened snags, gusty winds associated with thunderstorms, stump holes.

RESOURCE CONCERNS: Invasive species such as dalmation toadflax, cheatgrass and zebra mussel transported on equipment from other locations.

WEATHER: Today is a transition day towards a warming and drying trend in the weather. Some low level moisture will remain in place as dewpoints stay in the 40s. Mostly sunny this morning and partly cloudy this afternoon with a slight chance of a late afternoon thunderstorm. Temps near 6500 ft 74-80 degrees; temps near 8500 ft 68-73 degrees. Rh near 6500 ft is 25-32% and near 8500 ft is 29-36%. Gusty erratic winds up to 45 mph or greater is possible near thunderstorms. Storms will be slow moving with a potential for wetting rain. Slope/valley winds near and below 6000 ft: Light E winds 3-7 mph until 10 am increasing to 12-17 mph after 1:00 p.m. Ridge top winds above 8000 ft: NW 7-12 mph increasing to 15-20 mph by 1:00 p.m. with a few gusts up to 25 mph.

Forecast for Tuesday is mostly sunny in the morning and partly cloudy in the afternoon with a slight chance of a late afternoon thunderstorm. Max temps 83 degrees and Rh 13-20%.

Extended forecast is mostly sunny with a slight chance of thunderstorms both Wednesday and Thursday afternoons with N-NW upper level winds. Temps will also climb above seasonal norms with a decrease in humidities.

TODAY'S EXPECTED FIRE BEHAVIOR: With the transition towards warming and drying, fire activity will start to increase. High rates of spread are not anticipated, but fire behavior will steadily increase through the week. Interior smokes will start to show in the N/NE, with continued smoldering in the S/SW with potential for some fire spread with breezy conditions during the warmer part of the day.

COOPERATING AGENCIES & PARTNERS: Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, the Wyoming State Forestry Division, Platte County, Albany County and Converse County; the Rawlins Field Office of the High Desert District of the Bureau of Land Management.

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