

# FACT SHEET

## East Fork Fire Ouray Ranger District June 30, 2013 8:00 a.m.



Information Officers: Ted Pettis, Rick Barton, Lora Schmillen, Megan Mast  
Information Center 970-240-2049  
Information Center Hours 7am-9pm

**Incident:** This wildland fire started on 6/15/2013; cause was lightning.  
**Location:** 30 miles southeast of Montrose, CO.  
**Jurisdiction:** Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, & Gunnison National Forests  
**Cooperating Agencies:** BLM, Gunnison County  
**Incident Commander:** Rick Kusicko, Northern Rockies Type II Incident Management Team (IMT). The Incident Command Post (ICP) is located at the Columbine Middle School in Montrose.

**Current Size:** 447 acres

**Containment:** 10%

**Management Strategy:** Full suppression

**Structures Threatened:** 20 residences, 15 commercial properties, and 5 outbuildings

**Structures Lost:** none

**Status:** The fire has been light to moderately active; burning in spruce/fir fuels with creeping and single tree torching. Steep, rocky, inaccessible terrain (primarily below the Rim) with heavy dead/ down fuels that are extremely dry has made suppression efforts very difficult. The high elevation also affects crew and equipment efficiencies.

The Little Cimarron Creek Road and Road 864 are being heavily used by the fire crews for access to the fire. Some crews are staying in a 'spike camp' setup on the High Mesa. Road maintenance will be ongoing with road blading and dust abatement as needed. Structure protection measures have been completed for current status.

**Yesterday's Activities:** Crews completed fireline construction around the large spot fire on the High Mesa and have started mop-up operations. Dozer lines and fuel breaks were extended along the Rim to help containment efforts in the inaccessible fire area. The inaccessible areas are monitored visually by air and supported by helicopter water drops.

**Current Resources:** Five 20-person crews, nine engines, two dozers, three water tenders, and three helicopters. Total personnel: **287**.

**Today's Activities:** A 'Red Flag' warning has been issued by the National Weather Service for dry thunderstorm activity in our area. Super cell development is possible. Temperatures are predicted to be 75 degrees on High Mesa.

Crews will be focusing on mop-up activities on the High Mesa portion of fire area. Fire managers have identified a safe opportunity to establish an indirect and effective fireline on the north flank of the main fire below the Rim.

**Restrictions/Closures:** The recent 'Closure Order' by the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests has been revised starting June 29, 2013. The revision **opens** the

Big Cimarron Road #858 to the Silver Jack reservoir to the junction of Big Cimarron Road #863 and service road #858, the West Fork Road #860 south of Owl Creek Pass; and Road #868 from the Alpine Guard Station to the Big Blue trailhead #232.

All the other prohibited use of National Forest System lands (Restricted Area), roads and trails that access the East Fork Fire area are still in effect.

A road "Closure Order" for the BLM's adjacent spur roads has been issued. The closure includes the High Mesa Road (3001) and spur roads (3001a-i) off that road. It also includes the High Mesa Trail, and the Big Blue Ridge Road (3006) and the spur/branch roads (3006b-c) off that road. Please contact: Gunnison Field Office for more information at 970-642-4940.

On June 24, 2013, the Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest implemented Stage 1 fire restrictions due to high fire danger and ongoing fire activity. The prohibitions relate to campfires and smoking on National Forest System lands in the area.

In addition, a temporary flight restriction (TFR) is in effect surrounding the East Fork Fire area.

For more on the closures and restrictions please go to the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest website ([www.fs.usda.gov/gmug](http://www.fs.usda.gov/gmug)).

The Colorado Trail and the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail are closed from Stoney Pass to San Luis Peak due to fire activity on the Papoose Fire located in Mineral County.

Fire email address: [coloradoeastforkfire@gmail.com](mailto:coloradoeastforkfire@gmail.com)

**For further Fire Information**, visit: [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org); Select "East Fork Fire".  
Or call the Forest fire hotline 970-874-6602.