

# West Fork Complex Fire Update

Colorado Interagency Type III Team – Phil Daniels, Incident Commander

Fire Information Phone: 719-569-4149 *Voice mail only, calls will be returned as quickly as possible.*

Hours of operation: 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Email: [WestForkFire.EastZone@gmail.com](mailto:WestForkFire.EastZone@gmail.com)

**July 16, 2013, 9:00 a.m.**

## Current Situation:

The Papoose fire is the only fire on the complex that is staffed. The other fires on the complex will continue to be monitored by air and appropriate action will be taken as needed. Two, Type-3 helicopters remain dedicated to monitoring and will provide bucket drops and other fire support for this complex.

**Weather:** The next few days will bring a drier weather pattern into the fire area. There will still remain isolated afternoon and evening thunderstorms, confined to the mountain areas. Humidity levels will be 30-42 percent today, with will aid fire efforts. Flash flood watches with potential ash and/or debris flows remain in place in all three fire areas.

**Papoose Fire:** There is scattered interior heat on the fire that continues to be monitored. Crews will be working to fell dead and damaged trees along popular travel routes, including the River Hill campground. The backhaul of equipment will continue off of the fire line.

**West Fork Fire and Windy Pass Fire:** There are very minimal areas of heat and smoke on this part of the fire. The fires will be monitored and appropriate action will be taken as needed.

## Public Health and Safety:

Smoke can be expected to be seen across parts of the fire for the next several days to weeks. The rain and winds have gone a long way towards clearing the air. For the Colorado Smoke Outlook, visit [http://www.colorado.gov/airquality/colo\\_advisory.aspx](http://www.colorado.gov/airquality/colo_advisory.aspx) or <http://www.colorado.gov/airquality/wildfire.aspx> for more information.

## Area Road and Trail Closures:

For information on road and trail closures and fire restrictions affecting the **San Juan** National Forest go to: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/sanjuan/alerts-notice>.

For information on road and trail closures and fire restrictions affecting the **Rio Grande** National Forest go to: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/riogrande/>.

## Fire Statistics:

**Location:** 14.5 miles north/northeast of Pagosa Springs, CO

**Complex Size:** 109,615 acres

Windy Pass: 1,417 acres

Papoose: 49,628 acres

West Fork: 58,570 acres

**Start Date:** 06/05/2013

**Percent Contained:** 66%

**Cause:** Lightning

**Total Personnel:** 82

**Resources Include:** 1 Type-1 hand crews, 1 Type-2 hand crews, 5 engines, 2 Type-3 helicopters and 12 overhead personnel.

## For more information:

**Blog:** <http://westforkfirecomplex.blogspot.com/> | **Website:** <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3436/>

**Twitter:** @RioGrandeUSFS | **Photos:** <http://s1286.photobucket.com/user/WestForkComplex/library/>

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