

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

July 18, 2013, 9:00 a.m.

Special Message: This is anticipated to be the last update for the complex from an incident management team. As of 6 p.m., the management will be turned over to a smaller Type IV team. The phone number and email address for this incident will be disabled the morning of Sunday, July 21. Any further questions should be directed to the Rio Grande National Forest or the San Juan National Forest.

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: Widespread shower and thunderstorm activity will remain across the mountain region over the next several days. The main threats will be lightening along with strong wind gusts and heavy rain that could cause local heavy rain that could result in localized flash flooding on area burn scars. Humidity levels will be 28-38 percent.

Papoose Fire: Scattered interior heats on the fire will continue to be monitored. To mitigate for public safety, crews will be working to fell dead and damaged trees. The backhaul and rehabilitation 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 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: 71

Resources Include: 1 Type-1 hand crews, 1 Type-2 hand crews, 2 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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