



BULL DRAW FIRE

FIRE UPDATE • Jerry Wheelless, Incident Commander • Fire Information Line: (970) 578-0213, Hours: 8:00am - 8:00pm

Bull Draw Fire Update

Date: Thursday, September 20, 2018

Acres: 32,645 acres as of September 19 1300 hrs

Containment: 60%

Personnel: 127

Yesterday's Activity: Fire behavior yesterday morning was active in aspen stands near the Big Atkinson drainage, and moderated throughout the day with cooler temperatures and cloud cover. Firefighters conducted some burnout operations from National Forest System Road (NSFR) 402 (Divide Road) near the Big Atkinson drainage before weather conditions stalled successful ignitions. Crews secured edges near NSFR 407, providing strengthened lines near remaining fire in the Long Canyon area. Firefighters near the UC Cow Camp continued to patrol and conduct structure preparation. Firefighters actively worked to locate and contain 22-24 small spot fires, heavily gridding and monitoring the area on the North side of NSFR 402 (Divide Road) to ensure all spotting was contained.

Planned Activity: Today firefighters will continue to actively engage in suppression activities on the fire. Weather dependent and where feasible, crews will conduct burnout operations near NSFR 402 (Divide Road) to remove available fuel and strengthen control lines. Firefighters will mop up and patrol areas where spotting occurred yesterday and be on the lookout for potential new spots. Fire personnel will assess the potential success of conducting aerial ignitions in areas of the fire to strategically remove unburned vegetation and fortify control features. Command of the Bull Draw Fire was transferred to Incident Commander Jerry Wheelless from CorDell Taylor at 7:30am this morning.

Weather: Yesterday trace amounts of rain fell in areas of the fire, but did not contribute significantly to moderating fire behavior. Weather today is expected to be partly cloudy in the morning, clear in the afternoon, and partly cloudy again in the evening. Winds may be gusty again today, with the potential to increase fire activity.

Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs): TFRs were reinstated yesterday for the fire perimeter to provide for the safety of firefighting aircraft and crews on the ground. The public is also reminded that unauthorized Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), or drones, are never allowed near an active wildfire due to safety. "If you fly, we can't".

Closures: The expanded forest closure order remains in effect. The closure includes National Forest System Road (NSFR) 402 (Divide Road) from the junction of NSFR 408 (Dominguez Road) and NSFR 402 (Divide Road) (approximately 21.5 miles south of the junction of HWY 141/NSFR 402), south to the junction of NSFR 600 (Windy Point Junction) and NSFR 402 (Divide Road). More information, including a map of the closure area can be found at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/closures/6059/>

Public Safety: Public in the area is encouraged to remain vigilant, be aware of their surroundings, and be prepared to evacuate should the fire threaten their safety. Hunters with tags that may be impacted by fire activity may contact the Colorado Parks & Wildlife Montrose Field Office with questions at (970) 252-6000.

Fire Information Links:

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Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests Fire Information: 970-874-6602

Wildfire Smoke Information: www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health

Bull Draw Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BullDrawFire/>

West Slope Fire Information: www.WestSlopeFireInfo.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GMUG.NF/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/GMUG_NF