



# Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit



For immediate release  
Friday, July 25, 2008

Contact: Lynn Barclay  
970-826-5096

## **Kraft Fire is 668 Acres**

Craig, CO - Thunderstorms accompanied by heavy lightning moved through northwest Colorado earlier this week. More than 16 fires were ignited during this period with the majority of incidents located in western Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties. Most are now contained and were three acres or less in size.

The Kraft Fire is 25 miles northwest of Maybell north of Highway 318 near Kraft Draw is the largest of the remaining fires. Situated on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) public land it is burning in grass, sagebrush and pinion/ juniper trees. The Yampa Valley Crew and three engines are assigned to that incident. The Kraft Fire is located in an area identified in the BLM Little Snake Fire Management Plan as benefited by fire. The fire is being managed using a confinement strategy. This means existing natural barriers, such as rock formations and roads, will be utilized to contain the fire, along with crews conducting burnout operations to remove fuel in order to keep it within the designated area. This strategy will encourage limited fire suppression actions and use fire fighting resources efficiently while helping to minimize costs and improve the overall health of the range. There are no improvements or structures threatened. It is currently 668 acres and 70% contained. Smoke will be visible as interior pockets of fuel continue to burn.

There have been two human caused fires in Moffat County. One fire off Highway 40 west of Maybell reached 20 acres in size. The suspected cause was a cigarette from a vehicle. The other was a three acre fire near Dinosaur. The Moffat County Sheriff's Department responded to both incidents located on private land. The Artesia Fire Protection District (FPD), Rangely FPD, and an engine from Dinosaur National Monument also assisted with the Dinosaur incident. The Moffat County Sheriff's Department also assisted with other fires on BLM and is staffing an engine for patrol.

Currently crews are suppressing a human caused fire in the BLM White River Field Area from an abandoned campfire in Rio Blanco County. All other fires from the previous thunderstorm in Rio Blanco County were located in the Piceance Basin and are contained.

Fire Danger is High to Very High. No fire restrictions are currently in place for Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt, Jackson or Grand counties. However the public is urged to use caution with any outdoor fires as conditions continue to dry. Some counties have fire restrictions; please check any areas you plan to visit by call the local sheriff's department or the Colorado Division of Emergency management web site <http://dola.colorado.gov/dem/index.html>. Check weather before igniting a fire outdoors; if it's windy don't light any fires. Always have a shovel and water on hand and build campfires on bare soil with a ten foot radius outside the fire area.

