



Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit



For immediate release
Thursday, August 18, 2011

Contact: Lynn Barclay
970-826-5096

Sawmill Fire 76 Acres

CRAIG, Colo. – Smoke has been visible intermittently from Craig, Maybell and U.S. Highway 40 since the Sawmill Fire began Tuesday, August 16, on Bureau of Land Management land 24 miles west of Maybell, Colo.

According to reports from the engine crews monitoring and patrolling the fire, “Fire activity is moderate with smoldering and occasional torching.” The fire burned hot on the along the southern flank making short runs yesterday increasing in size to 76 acres.

The 2009 Allred Fire borders the east side of fire with the 2010 Logging Fire nine miles to the west. Winds have been predominately out of the northwest causing a low backing fire into the ponderosa pines.

The fire is being managed for multiple objectives including rangeland health and wildlife habitat improvement. Northwest Fire Management officials said, “Much of the landscape in western Moffat County is fire dependent. Low intensity fire is critical to many ecosystems, including ponderosa pine stands.”

The two engines manning the incident today are from the BLM and Fish and Wildlife Service. The Craig Hot Shots worked the last two days prepping roads in the fire area by removing brush and low hanging branches to improve road access for firefighters and equipment.

No structures are threatened.

- End -