Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit

For Immediate Release
Wednesday, August 12, 2009

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Fire Danger Remains High

(Craig, CO-) Fire danger remains high in Rio Blanco and Moffat Counties. A return to warmer, drier conditions is expected over the next few days. Vegetation at lower elevations continues to dry as seasonal curing occurs. "Any winds that develop, particularly in the afternoon when temperatures are at their peak, will spread a fire quickly in grass and brush," advised Fire Management Officer Mark Rogers.

To date, the Northwest Fire Management Unit has responded to 210 wildfires across its five county protection area. Those counties are: Grand; Jackson; Routt; Moffat; and Rio Blanco. Local fire departments and county resources have assisted with or been first responders on many of these incidents. The majority of fires have occurred in Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties. And while most of the fires in northwest Colorado result from natural causes like lightning, some have been human caused associated with machinery, campfires, ditch burning, etc.

More people will be enjoying the outdoors as fall approaches. County, state, and federal land managers offer these tips to help keep everyone safe with outdoor fire use;

- •Build campfires on bare mineral soil
- •Clear area around campfires of dry brush and grass
- • Make sure matches and cigarettes are completely extinguished before discarding
- •Park out of tall grass - hot exhaust systems can ignite dry vegetation
- •Always have a shovel and bucket handy to extinguish fires
- •Don't light any fire outdoors on windy days

Remember, leaving a campfire unattended is a finable offense and anyone found responsible for the start of a wildland fire may be held liable for suppression costs associated with that fire.

To report a wildland fire, call 911 and be prepared to give your location and the location of the reported fire.

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