



NORTHWEST COLORADO FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT

NEWS RELEASE

July 11, 2012, 11 a.m.

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Lightning ignites wildland fires in Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties

Craig, CO – Lightning associated with dry thunderstorms was the confirmed ignition source for the majority of the wildland fires that popped up late yesterday afternoon. Five wildland fires were reported yesterday with another reported this morning. Western Moffat County picked up four of the fires with one 10 miles northwest of Craig. The fire reported this morning is north of Oil Springs Mountain near Rangely in Rio Blanco County.

The USA Fire was contained at 6 p.m., at nine acres on Bureau of Land Management land 10 miles northwest of Craig off Moffat County Road 7. Responding to this fire was Craig Fire/Rescue, Moffat County Sheriff's Office and BLM engines. An engine will patrol the fire area today.

Cold Fire is on private land four miles south of the Wyoming border and one and one half miles east of the Utah border in northwest Moffat County in the Cold Springs area. The blaze is eight acres with two engines, five smokejumpers, one water tender and one hand crew working the fire. A helicopter dropping water cooled areas of the fire so ground crews could build fireline with hand tools and set up hose line. It's burning in lodgepole pine with heavy dead and down debris. Response is from Moffat County, BLM, and National Park Service. No structures are immediately threatened.

Cedar Knob Fire started on private land 10 miles southwest of Maybell off MCR 57 near Jacobs Draw and may have moved on to BLM lands. It's estimated to be 600 acres burning predominantly in grass, sage and brush. Two Moffat County fire engines, three BLM engines, two Moffat County bulldozers plus BLM fire management are on scene. Ordered are two 20-person hand crews. Crews worked late into the night establishing an anchor point, conducting firing operations along Moffat County Road 23 to keep it from jumping the road and providing structure protection for a cabin, four out buildings and a corral. A local type 3 incident management team has assumed management of this incident. No containment is reported.

The public is asked to avoid that area for safety concerns with active fire bumping the roads and emergency response traffic.

The Black Fire, contained at one half acre as of 10:00 p.m. last night, is in the Dinosaur National Monument. Engine crews will monitor that incident today.

The Buck Fire was reported at 2:44 p.m. yesterday in northwest Moffat County on the east side of Bower Draw. Smokejumper were mobilized to this blaze, but reported they could not see any smoke and it was determined to be a natural out or extinguished by natural means at 4:30 p.m.

Smokejumper are responding to the new fire in Rio Blanco County and will be submitting a fire size up sometime this morning.

Fire danger is high in Moffat and Rio Blanco counties and moderate in Routt, Jackson, and Grand counties. Even though there was moisture received in northwest Colorado over the weekend, conditions remain dry and vegetation is very receptive to any ignition source. Stage II Fire Restrictions remain in effect across northwest Colorado. For a statewide listing of fire restrictions visit: <http://www.coemergency.com/p/fire-ban-info.html>

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