



NORTHWEST COLORADO FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT

For Immediate Release
Saturday, July 17, 2010, 6:00 p.m.

Contact: Lynn Barclay 970-826-5096
Recorded Media Line 970-826-5108

Twin Buttes Fire being managed to benefit the land

Rangely, CO – Fire activity today on the 200 acre Twin Buttes Fire was low with some short runs in the pinyon and juniper trees. Smoke was visible later in the afternoon from a burn out operation on the southeast flank. The fire is being managed with a limited perimeter control strategy. This means fire managers have determined the maximum boundaries they will allow the fire to reach and fire personnel are constructing fireline in some areas while allowing the fire to burn to natural barriers on others to keep the fire within the allotted boundary.

When it's safe to do so, fire managers permit lightning-caused fires to burn, allowing fire to play its natural role on the landscape. Fire is a component of many ecosystems in the west. The Bureau of Land Management White River Field Office identifies areas in its Resource Management Plan that will benefit from fire's effect. Some of those advantages are burning up dead and decadent debris that inhibit regeneration of new plants; supporting nutrient cycles; and many plants need the disturbance of fire to reproduce. These effects improve habitat for wildlife and the overall health of the land.

Tomorrow a Nature Conservancy Wildfire Module will transition with the smokejumpers that provided initial actions and size up on the incident. The NCWM specializes in analyzing long term fire affects and planning.

The Twin Buttes Fire is 25 miles southwest of Rangely; Rio Blanco County on BLM managed land.

Vegetation in the fire area is pinyon and juniper trees, oak brush, grass and dormant brush and slash.

There are eight firefighters assigned.

Structures in the area include a historical cabin, three quarters of a mile northwest of the fire, a primary residence about one and one half miles southwest of the fire, and a residence approximately two miles northeast of the fire. None of these structures are immediately threatened.

-End-

Indian Valley Fire almost contained

Meeker, CO – The Indian Valley Fire is 322 acres and 95% contained. Full containment is expected tomorrow. Fire activity today was low with smoldering in vegetation. One hot shot crew will be released from the incident tomorrow morning and remaining firefighters will continue mop-up operations and securing the fireline.

Fire managers are anticipating no fire growth.

No structures were destroyed.

Lightning from three days ago is the cause of this fire. The blaze started on private land burned onto Bureau of Land Management land.

-End-