



## Update: Powell Complex

**Meeker, CO (July 23, 2012)** – Deep monsoon moisture has remained over the region and is predicted to stay until Tuesday. Both fires have received rain which is helping firefighting efforts. However, heat remains within the fire boundary and firefighters are working to cool these areas. The cause of both fires is lightning. Approximately 250 personnel are assigned to the fires.

At this time **the Powell Fire** is on BLM and private land, holding at 889 acres and is 70% contained. The fire is located 5 miles northwest of Meeker in Rio Blanco County. Primary management objectives include suppressing the fire to protect private property values. Part of the fire is in a Wilderness Study Area which limits the use of mechanized equipment however crews continue to create and strengthen fire line using Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST).

Two Type 3 Helicopters are among air resources assisting this fire and others in the area. On the ground are 5 hand crews and 5 engines. Rio Blanco County continues to support fire suppression efforts with equipment and personnel. The Meeker Volunteer Fire Department continues to provide support.

The **Little Duck Fire** had no growth today, is 55% contained and remains at 749 acres. It is on a mix of BLM and private land 13 miles southeast of Rangely and south of Buckhorn Draw in Rio Blanco County. Concerns include protecting power lines, Shell infrastructure, Greater Sage Grouse habitat and Threatened and Endangered (T&E) plants. There are 5 engines, a Type 2 hand crew and 1 Fire Module on the fire. Plans for tomorrow include completing and strengthening fire line.

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Until further notice, for information on the fire contact Public Information Officer Bill Kight at 970-948-1894.