



NORTHWEST COLORADO FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT

News Release

July 15, 2016 7 p.m.

Contact: David Boyd, Public Affairs Specialist, (970) 319-4130

Blair Fire west of Meeker grows to more than 900 acres

MEEKER, Colo. – After several days of active fire behavior, the Blair Fire 20 miles west of Meeker has grown to 916 acres.

The fire is southeast of Blair Mountain on Bureau of Land Management-administered lands. Drivers along Colorado Highway 64 are cautioned about intermittent periods of smoke across the highway and to watch for firefighting traffic.

More than 100 firefighters are now working to suppress the west and south flanks of the fire. Four engines, two heavy air tankers, two single engine air tankers, an air attack coordination plane and a heavy helicopter are assisting.

Firefighters have been actively working the south and west sides of the lightning-ignited fire since it was first reported June 29. They have allowed the fire to move east, where it has helped open the dense stands of pinyon and juniper. This will increase forest diversity, benefit wildlife habitat and keep firefighter and public safety the top priority.

Firefighters are now taking more aggressive suppression tactics as the fire pushes to pre-established management points.

There is a flight restriction order over the area. Firefighters remind the public that unmanned aircraft systems, or drones, are a serious impediment to wildland firefighting. If a drone is spotted near a wildfire, firefighting aircraft will be grounded to protect firefighters.

Updates will be posted at www.inciweb.nwcg.gov and on the BLM Colorado Fire Facebook page, www.facebook.com/BLMColoradoFire.

###