



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

# Fire Management

BLM Colorado State Office  
September 2016

Approximately 15 percent of Colorado wildfires on BLM lands are human caused. The 10-year average for wildland fires on BLM Colorado lands is 394 incidents (human and lightning caused) and 10,454 acres burned annually. During 2016, the Beaver Creek has been the largest and longest duration fire of the season, burning more than 37,000 acres.

In 2016, the BLM targeted more than 15,000 acres of fuels treatment projects in Colorado. These treatments reduce protect and enhance wildlife habitat (including sage-grouse), increase forest resilience, and protect property and infrastructure in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). On average, roughly 90 percent of the BLM acres treated for fuels reduction are within the WUI. While 10 percent of fuels treatments enhance and sustain resilient lands in remote areas. The BLM partners with the Wild Turkey Federation, the Mule Deer Foundation, the Nature Conservancy, and other non-governmental organizations such as the Dolores River Restoration Partnership to identify and treat hazardous fuels on priority landscapes in Colorado.

The protection, conservation and restoration of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat is the BLM's highest natural resource priority. The BLM places a high priority on limiting the damage from unwanted wildfires in sagebrush habitat through comprehensive planning and fuels treatments before a fire, prompt action during a fire, and effective rehabilitation following a fire. Funding is used for critical conservation projects including fuels treatments, habitat protection and enhancements that benefit sagebrush ecosystems and sage-grouse habitat.

The Department of the Interior works together with the Colorado's Division of Fire Prevention and Control and the U.S. Forest Service to educate communities, counties and individuals about wildfire mitigation, planning and prevention through workshops, websites and media outreach.

## Resources

BLM Colorado has the following fire suppression resources available within the state:

- One interagency hot shot crew
- One wildland fire module
- 12 Type-6 engines
- 7 Type-4 engines

- One Initial Attack squad
- One helicopter and staff for 90-day contract in Rifle, Colorado.

The Rocky Mountain Area hosts three Incident Management Teams (IMTs), one Type 1 IMT and two Type 2 IMTs. IMTs are available for large and complex fires.

## 2015 Wildland Fires and Acreages

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In BLM Colorado:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Human caused</li> <li>○ Lightning caused</li> <li>○ Total</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Fires</u></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Acres</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">58</td> <td style="text-align: right;">224</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">178</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,536</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">236</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,760</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Fires</u>	<u>Acres</u>	58	224	178	2,536	236	2,760
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## Seasonal Outlook

### Fall 2016

A repeat of our historical fire seasons such as 2000, 2002, 2006 and 2012, is unlikely. During the month of August wetter than average conditions occurred most notably in central to southern Colorado. The most severe dry weather was across northwest Colorado and far northeast Colorado. August temperatures this year were below average, and much cooler than August 2015. Fire managers expect the Beaver Creek Fire to continue until temperatures drop this fall.