ORDER No. WRNF-2012-14

TEMPORARY AREA CLOSURE ORDER
NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS RESTRICTION
WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 551 and 36 C.F.R. 261.50(a), the following act is prohibited within the described National Forest System lands located on the Blanco Ranger District, White River National Forest, Rio Blanco County, in the State of Colorado.

The restricted area is further defined as an area in the Middle Fork of North Elk Creek, 6th Principal Meridian, T 2 S, R 91 W, Sections 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34 & 35. The area is further defined as a polygon beginning at the Jct of the Buford Newcastle Road, National Forest System Road (NFSR) 245 and the Blair Mountain Road, NFSR 601. From that junction travel south on NFSR 245 to where water from Hiner Spring flows under NFSR 245 (approximately 300 feet). (This is the start of the Middle Fork of North Elk Creek.) The restricted area boundary follows the Middle Fork of North Elk in a southerly, then westerly direction for approximately 2.5 miles to its confluence with a drainage coming in from the south. The area boundary then follows the Middle Fork of North Elk approximately 0.9 mile to the north to an unnamed drainage coming in from the east. The area boundary then follows this unnamed drainage approximately 1.8 miles to the rim of the plateau north of Hiner Spring. The polygon then follows the rim around to the north approximately 1.3 miles to NFSR 245. It then follows NFSR 245 to its junction with NFSR 601 to complete the restricted area boundary.

PROHIBITIONS:

Going into or being upon the Restricted Area. 36 C.F.R. 261.53(e)

EXEMPTIONS:

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this order:

1) Any Federal, State or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty;
2) Persons with a Forest Service permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.

This Order shall remain in effect until rescinded or until December 31, 2012, whichever event occurs first.

Done at Glenwood Springs, this 25 day of September, 2012

Scott Fitzwilliams
Forest Supervisor
White River National Forest Service

Violations of these prohibitions are punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than $5,000 for an individual or $10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both. (16 U.S.C. 551 and 18 U.S.C. 3559 and 3571).

Description of Closure Area

The area is further defined as a polygon beginning at the Jct of the Buford Newcastle Road, National Forest System Road (NFSR) 245 and the Blair Mountain Road, NFSR 601. From that junction travel south on NFSR 245 to where water from Hiner Spring flows under NFSR 245 (approximately 300 feet). (This is the start of the Middle Fork of North Elk Creek.) The restricted area boundary follows the Middle Fork of North Elk in a southerly, then westerly direction for approximately 2.5 miles to its confluence with a drainage coming in from the south. The area boundary then follows the Middle Fork of North Elk approximately 0.9 mile to the north to an unnamed drainage coming in from the east. The area boundary then follows this unnamed drainage approximately 1.8 miles to the rim of the plateau north of Hiner Spring. The polygon then follows the rim around to the north approximately 1.3 miles to NFSR 245. It then follows NFSR 245 to its junction with NFSR 601 to complete the restricted area boundary. NFSR 245 is not closed.
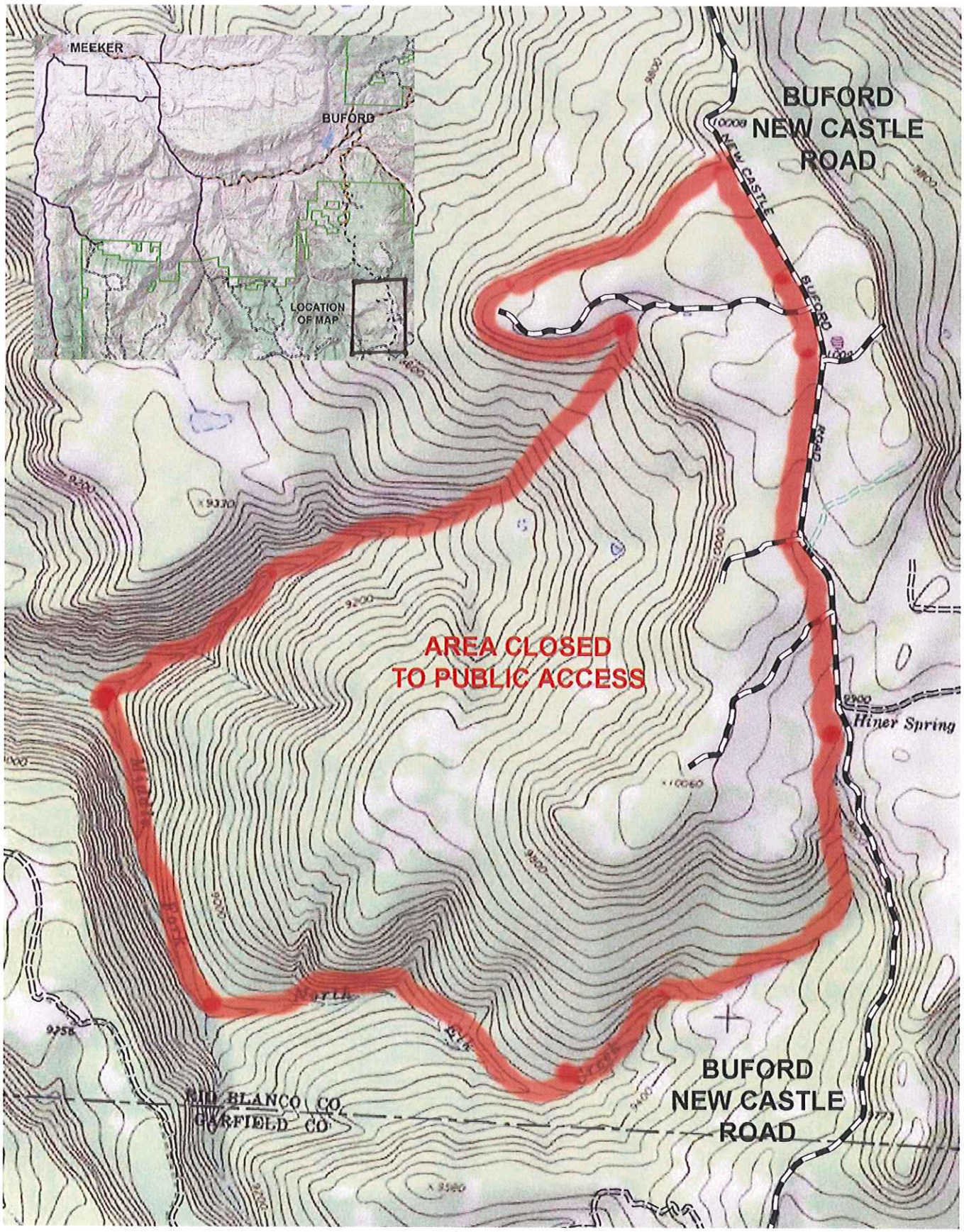
Exhibit A
Middle Elk Fire Area Closure