



**Smoke Outlook for 8/22 - 8/23**  
**Western Colorado Pine Gulch Fire**  
 Issued at: 2020-08-22 08:20 MDT

**Special Statement**

Those who have or are recovering from COVID-19 should take precautions to avoid exposure to smoke. See the CDC's webpage for more information:  
[https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/covid-19/wildfire\\_smoke\\_covid-19.html](https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/covid-19/wildfire_smoke_covid-19.html)

**WildFire**

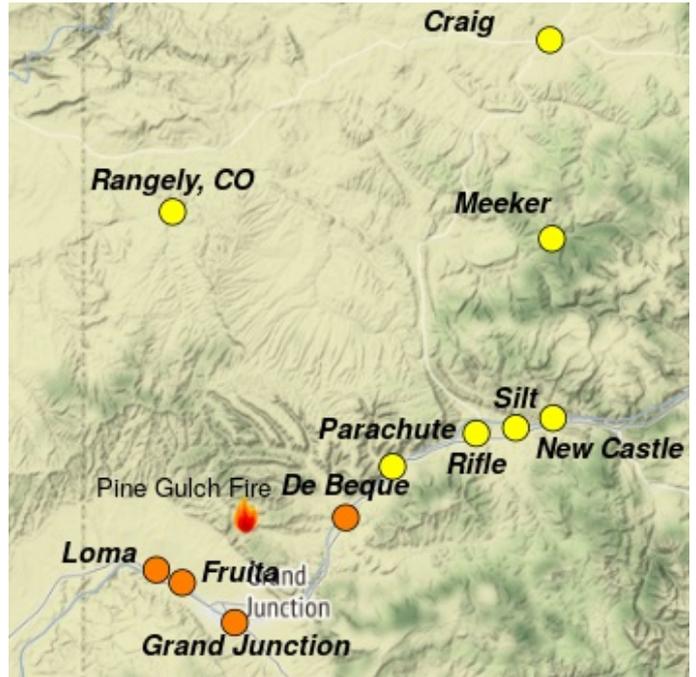
The Pine Gulch wildfire is at approximately 126,613 acres and is 17% contained. Firefighters are still witnessing active fire behavior due to historically dry conditions and receptive fuels. Excessive heat warnings continue throughout western and central Colorado, with a highs near 98 in the Grand Valley. Possible thunderstorms developing in eastern Utah today will increase the likelihood of outflow winds.

**Smoke**

Haze and areas of smoke will continue Saturday morning across portions of central and western Colorado especially in the Grand Valley. Winds out of the south/southeast until midday. Moderate to USG conditions will be present before 11 am. West winds continue in the afternoon around 7-9 mph with gusts up to 14mph that will bring durations of heavy smoke and periods of unhealthy conditions through communities of Fruita, Loma, Grand Junction, Clifton, and De Beque. Parachute, Rifle, Silt, and New Castle will see moderate and some USG conditions late into the afternoon and evening. Reduced visibility on road ways at times can occur due to changes in the fire activity and wind along highways and I-70. Valleys and drainages are the last to clear out.

**Air Quality Monitoring**

If you notice health effects from smoke, you are encouraged to follow actions to protect yourself listed below. Always remember if you smell smoke you are breathing smoke. Air Quality Health Advisory for wildfire smoke may appear in these areas. Please use caution on roads, highways, and Interstates in the areas due to possible limited visibility.



Daily AQI Forecast\* for Aug 22, 2020

Station	Yesterday hourly	Fri 8/21	Forecast* Comment for Today -- Sat, Aug 22	Sat 8/22	Sun 8/23
Loma	6a noon 6p No hourly data	●	USG conditions in the morning till midday and Unhealthy in the evening as north winds increase and smoke drains south into Grand Valley *Monitor	●	●
Fruita	6a noon 6p [Bar chart showing USG/Unhealthy conditions]	●	USG conditions in the morning till midday and Unhealthy in the evening as north winds increase and smoke drains south into Grand Valley *Monitor	●	●
Grand Junction	6a noon 6p [Bar chart showing USG/Unhealthy conditions]	●	Hazy/Moderate conditions early a.m. with areas of USG & Unhealthy in the evening as northerly winds push smoke into the Grand Junction area.	●	●
De Beque	6a noon 6p [Bar chart showing Moderate/USG conditions]	●	Moderate conditions a.m. with possible USG conditions in the afternoon *Monitor	●	●
Parachute	No hourly data	●	Moderate conditions expected Periods of Unhealthy are possible* Monitor	●	●
Rifle	No hourly data	●	Moderate conditions expected later in the day as winds shift * Monitor	●	●
Silt	No hourly data	●	Moderate conditions depending on afternoon winds *Monitor	●	●
New Castle	No hourly data	●	Moderate conditions * Monitor	●	●
Meeker	No hourly data	●	Moderate conditions * Monitor	●	●
Craig	No hourly data	●	Moderate to USG conditions as smoke clears in the afternoon with northerly winds * Monitor	●	●
Rangely, CO	6a noon 6p [Bar chart showing Moderate/USG conditions]	●	Moderate Conditions moving to USG in the evenings.	●	●

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Air Quality Index (AQI)	Actions to Protect Yourself
● Good	None
● Moderate	Unusually sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged or heavy exertion.
● USG	People within Sensitive Groups* should <b>reduce</b> prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.
● Unhealthy	People within Sensitive Groups* should <b>avoid all</b> physical outdoor activity.

 Very Unhealthy	Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
 Hazardous	Everyone should avoid any outdoor activity.

**\*Disclaimer:** This forecast is based on fine particulates only; ozone is not included. Forecasts may be wrong; use at own risk. Use caution as conditions can change quickly. See your health professional as needed. Smoke sensitive groups should take appropriate precautions.

**Additional Links**

[Colorado.gov Air Quality](https://www.colorado.gov/airquality/addendum.aspx#smoke) -- <https://www.colorado.gov/airquality/addendum.aspx#smoke>  
[InciWeb Incident Information System](https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6906/) -- <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6906/>

[Colorado.gov Air Quality](https://www.colorado.gov/airquality/colorado_summary.aspx) -- [https://www.colorado.gov/airquality/colorado\\_summary.aspx](https://www.colorado.gov/airquality/colorado_summary.aspx)  
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Issued by USFS Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program -- [www.wildlandfiresmoke.net](http://www.wildlandfiresmoke.net)  
Western Colorado Current Outlook -- [tools.airfire.org/outlooks/WesternColorado](http://tools.airfire.org/outlooks/WesternColorado)  
\*Smoke and Health Info -- [www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=smoke.index](http://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=smoke.index)