



Beaver Creek Fire

Frequently asked questions about the Beaver Creek Fire

(Current as of 8/13/16)

- **Is this fire being allowed to burn?**

No, the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, BLM Kremmling Field Office, State of Colorado Lands, BLM Rawlins Field Office, and Wyoming State Forestry Division directed fire teams to use a full suppression strategy. Firefighters are using a full suppression strategy where and when they can be successful and under conditions where important values at risk are protected with the least exposure to risk necessary to accomplish the task. Firefighters have been working to put the fire out since day one.

- **Why is the fire taking so long to put out?**

Mountain Pine Beetles have killed large numbers of trees in the forest where the fire is located. The large amount of dead and down timber, steep topography and difficult access combine to make control of the fire extremely difficult. The accumulation of fallen trees and standing dead trees have created an extreme hazard for firefighters. The usual tactics and strategies have not been feasible and traditional fireline construction has not been possible in many areas of the fire. Control tactics have been directed at areas of lighter fuels and where natural fuel breaks and roads can be used.

- **When will this fire be out?**

Forests are drier than ever. We have had 25 new fire starts since this fire began. Most are contained within the first 24 hour period. This one was very remote and located in a dry, dead and down forest. Fire managers estimate the final flame may be extinguished by significant snowfall. Firefighters may have a containment line around the perimeter of the fire long before the fire burning in the interior is out. It will be monitored until it is out.

- **Why is the investigation into the cause of the fire taking so long?**

A thorough investigation is currently being done by US Forest Service Law Enforcement Officers. As always, once the exact cause has been determined, it will be released to the public. It is important to get this right.

- **Why can't property owners enter on National Forest roads that are closed?**

There is still active fire and the potential for rapid spread under the right conditions. Firefighters are still working along roads and it could be hazardous for the public to be traveling on the roads at the same time. Additionally, it would be difficult for firefighters to evacuate residents if this occurred.

- **If firefighters are removing structure protection equipment from homes, why isn't it safe for the public to return?**

Although the threat to individual cabins may have decreased, fire personnel and equipment are still working in the area removing hazard trees and repairing roads. If the public were allowed access at this time they would be exposed to hazards and hamper firefighters work. Also, there is still active fire in the area and the potential for rapid growth in the event of high winds, low relative humidity and dry conditions.

- **If my property was damaged due to fire suppression activities can I be compensated?**

Possibly. There is a process that must be followed for submitting a claim. Claims can be filed during the fire with the Incident Management Team Finance Section Chief. Once the fire is contained, contact the local US Forest Service or BLM office to start the claim process.

- **When will the closed area of the National Forest be opened?**

Forest managers will continue to evaluate the closure order based on recommendations by fire personnel who are regularly evaluating fire activity and safety concerns.

- **How is this fire and related Forest Closures affecting hunting access?**

The ongoing Beaver Creek Fire in Jackson County Colorado has restricted public access to approximately two-thirds of public lands in Game Management Unit (GMU) 161. The closure will remain in effect through the 2016 hunting seasons. Hunters have options and there is still time to make arrangements and changes to hunting plans. Hunters who have licenses that are valid for multiple units in Jackson County have options to hunt elsewhere. As a result of the forest closure, Colorado Parks and Wildlife will be offering the following options to hunters who have licenses exclusively for GMU 161 only.

Seasons Involved:

- 1st through 3rd Antlered Rifle Deer seasons and Rifle Bear OTC w/Cap.

- 3rd and 4th Antlerless Rifle Elk seasons and Rifle Bear OTC w/Cap.
- 4th Rifle Either Sex Elk license and Rifle Bear OTC w/ cap
- Your bear license for any of the above listed units must be submitted for refund if you turn in your deer/elk licenses since you cannot hunt bear during any of these seasons without the deer or elk license.

Your Options:

- Keep your 2016 license and hunt OR
- Reinstatement of preference points to pre-draw levels and a refund OR
- Reinstatement of preference points to pre-draw levels and license exchanged for an Over-the-Counter license or an available leftover license in a different unit.

Requirements If You Choose Option 2 or 3 Above:

- You must return a non-voided, complete license (i.e. non-voided carcass tag that is still attached to the license) to CPW in person or by mail with a postmark no later than midnight the night before the season opens. Submit with our standard refund request form or attached to this letter and state your chosen option.

Filling Out the Refund Form

- Use the standard CPW license refund form. Forms are available at CPW offices or on the CPW website at:
<http://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/Shop/AppsLicenses/LicenseRefundApplication.pdf#search=license%20refund%20form>
- The reason for refund is: "License is for GMU 161 only".
- If you are applying for a license exchange instead of a refund please include the leftover hunt code (CPW cannot guarantee availability) or OTC license you wish to exchange to in the Reason for Refund box.
- If you are unable to access the standard refund form, please attach your license to this letter and send to: CPW, Attn: Refunds, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216.
- The ongoing Beaver Creek Fire in Jackson County Colorado has restricted public access to approximately two-thirds of public lands in Game Management Unit (GMU) 161. The closure will remain in effect through the 2016 hunting seasons. As a result of the closure Colorado Parks and Wildlife will be offering the following options to hunters who have drawn a moose license exclusively for GMU 161.

Seasons Involved:

- Both Antlered and Antlerless for the Moose Archery season
- Both Antlered and Antlerless for the Moose Muzzleloader season
- Both Antlered and Antlerless for the Moose Rifle Season

Your Options:

- Option to hunt this year with current license OR
- Reinstatement of preference points to pre-draw levels and a refund OR
- Option to hunt in 2017 for same hunt code. For this option, you will receive your 2017 license by the end of July 2017.

Requirements If You Choose Option 2 or 3 Above:

- You must return a non-voided, complete license (i.e. non-voided carcass tag that is still attached to the license) to CPW in person or by mail with a postmark no later than midnight the night before the season opens. Submit with our standard refund request form or attached to this letter and state your chosen option.

Filling Out the Refund Form

- Use the standard CPW license refund form. Forms are available at CPW offices or on the CPW website at:<http://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/Shop/AppsLicenses/LicenseRefundApplication.pdf#search=license%20refund%20form>
- The reason for refund is: "License is for GMU 161 only" OR "License re-issue for 2017"
- If you are unable to access the standard refund form, please attach your license to this letter and send to: CPW, Attn: Refunds, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216.

To obtain current updates on the Beaver Creek Fire and associated public access closures please contact the Parks Ranger District at 970-723-2700 or check online at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov>. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions at 970-255-6100.

If you have questions or concerns related to hunting in GMU 161 please contact the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Steamboat Springs office at 970-871-2855.

For more information about closures that may impact hunting access in Colorado, go to

www.cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/RoadClosures.aspx