



**UPPER COLORADO RIVER
INTERAGENCY FIRE MANAGEMENT**
NPS Colorado National Monument
BLM Grand Junction and Colorado River Valley
USFS White River, Grand Mesa and
Uncompahgre National Forests



http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2gjc/

Increased Smoke Expected from Meadow Creek Fire

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rifle, CO (Friday, July 16, 2010) – Activity on the Meadow Creek fire picked up late Thursday afternoon, fueled by warmer and drier conditions and heavier fuels. The fire gained another 20 acres yesterday as it moved northeast into a drainage with dense stands of timber and dead litter, producing more smoke visible from as far away as Carbondale. The fire perimeter is now estimated at 175 acres.

Fire personnel continue to actively manage and monitor the fire, which is burning in a remote area near the confluence of Meadow and Main Elk creeks. The steep and rugged nature of Main Elk canyon makes it difficult to place firefighters on the ground. A helicopter is being used today to drop water on the southwest edge of the fire and check its spread down towards Main Elk Creek. Crews are also beginning to clear brush on Hadley Point for potential burnout operations to keep the fire from spreading south.

Strong high pressure is forecast to bring hotter and drier weather to most of the region through Sunday. “With this hot weather and heavier fuels, we expect more active fire behavior this weekend especially in the afternoons,” stated Incident Commander Winslow Robinson. “With increased fire activity, residents are likely to see and smell more smoke than they have over the past couple of weeks. This is expected as the fire moves northeast in the direction that we anticipated.”

The Meadow Creek fire started on Saturday, June 26 as a result of a lightning strike. The Forest Service and Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit (UCR) developed a plan to manage the fire to achieve several resource objectives including improved bighorn sheep habitat. A camera has been set up across the canyon to assist in monitoring fire activity. Images captured every five minutes can be viewed at: www.fs.fed.us/r2/whiteriver/fire/meadow-creek. Current fire information is also posted at www.inciweb.org or may be obtained by calling (303) 947-8684.

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