



Norton Point Fire - 7/29/11

Location: 24 mi. N of Dubois

Helicopter ignition of a burnout is possible Friday afternoon.

Wyoming Hotshots have prepared fireline between Wiggins and Caldwell Creeks. Its purpose is to limit fire spread to the southeast.

Burning out vegetation close to the fireline will strengthen its effectiveness. A helicopter and ignition equipment have been ordered to support the firefighters working on the ground during the burnout.

Firefighters start burnout ignitions once the main fire is close enough. That way the main fire pulls air and flames inward and away from the fireline. The burnout is therefore expected to be relatively low-intensity near the fireline.

Supervisors have already identified a trigger location near the base of Caldwell Creek. They plan to start ignition when the main fire reaches the trigger point. At about the same time the main fire will be poised to spread at high-intensity up Caldwell Creek farther into the Wilderness. Whether it is on Friday or this weekend, substantial fire growth and smoke are likely on at least one day.

Other Actions: Continuing their work of the last few days, the Big Horn Basin hand crew, Worland BLM fuels crew, and Yellowstone Helitack are assigned to limit spread up Frontier Creek on the west side of the fire. Also, long-term modeling and tactical planning are well underway.

The Norton Point Fire is likely to burn into the autumn.

- The Norton Point Fire is burning in a mixture of vegetation that includes bug-killed logs. Because many dead trees are still standing or are jackstrawed, their wood is very dry and burns readily.
- Bug-killed timber burning in the Norton Point fire can smolder and hold heat for many cool days. Fire activity may resume when warmer, drier conditions return.
- Daily growth of the Norton Point Fire in coming weeks will vary with weather, especially wind speed and rain or snow.
- As days shorten and become cooler, significant fire growth become less likely. Once snow is several inches deep and remains on the ground, most likely the fire will be over.
- Parts of the fire perimeter are likely to go out, especially where the fire reaches rocks or wide patches of high-elevation miniature plants without bug-killed trees. Rock and alpine vegetation extend along much of the ridge between Fremont and Park Counties.

Vital Statistics: 103 firefighters 10,091 acres, increase of 396 acres since 7/28

More Information: www.inciweb.org. To contact us or to receive Norton Point Fire updates via email send your address to nortonpointfire@gmail.com.

Photo on page 2.



Remnants of this original cabin at Double Cabins were extensively damaged in the Norton Point Fire. The fire was first reported late in the evening. In this unusually hazardous terrain and fuel type, firefighters had very limited safe areas in which to work. Their initial efforts successfully protected the Guard Station despite the fire making an aggressive run early the second day. Once the main fire passed by, the small crew checked on this older cabin about a quarter mile away from the Guard Station and river. When they arrived there was so much fire in the old cabin's dry logs that there was little they could do. They did succeed in saving some adjacent historic artifacts.

