



No Significant Moisture Expected In Near Future

Craig, CO – Warm weather is expected for the next week with temperatures ranging from the mid 80s to 90s. A mix of wet and dry thunderstorms are anticipated which brings the chance for dry lightning. Fire danger remains high to very high in Routt, Jackson and Grand counties, and very high to extreme in Rio Blanco and Moffat counties.

“Fire activity is steady with 23 new fires the past week, ranging in size from one tenth acre to the 200 acre Jack Fire,” said Cliff Hutton, Fire Management Officer for the Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit. The Jack Fire was west of Greystone in the Jack Springs area on Bureau of Land Management public land. “Lightning has been the cause of all but one fire,” said Hutton. “We appreciate the public’s help in keeping human ignitions out of our busy fire response efforts.” All fires are now contained with the exception of the Hells Canyon Fire.

The Hells Canyon Fire in Dinosaur National Monument is being managed for resource benefit as a Wildland Fire Use incident. The fire is located south of County Road 14 at the mouth of Hells Canyon. It is inaccessible by engine and not threatening any improvements or resources at this time. Regional approval was given to monitor this 1 acre, slow-moving fire that sits below the Round Top lookout station. Allowing this fire to take its natural role will improve the existing habitat by opening up the juniper stands and diversifying the age of the shrubs in that area thus providing a healthier landscape. There has been little growth on this fire that started Saturday, July 14.

Stage 1 fire restrictions are in place in Rio Blanco, Moffat, Routt, Jackson, and Grand counties. The fire restrictions or bans prohibit the following:

- Building or using any open fire or campfire, except within approved and provided fire grates at developed campgrounds, or within fully enclosed stoves, enclosed charcoal grills, or in stoves using pressurized liquid or gas
- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, building or developed recreation site or a cleared area of at least 3 feet in diameter.
- Operating a chainsaw, except those with approved spark arrestors.
- Using an acetylene welder, except in cleared areas of at least 10 feet in diameter
- Fireworks, explosive or any incendiary device

Restrictions and penalties vary slightly between counties. Call your nearest county sheriff’s department or land management agency for more details on fire restrictions and fire safety. Always have a shovel and water handy when recreating or working outdoors and check any areas you plan to visit to ensure you know what fire restrictions are in place.

Anyone found guilty of starting a wildland fire, either negligently or willfully, may be held liable for costs associated with that fire.

For a complete listing of Colorado Fire Restrictions visit the Office of Emergency Management website at: <http://www.dola.state.co.us/oem/>