

The Following articles are taken from WYO4News and KGWN/Cheyenne.

BLM Continues Fighting Wildfire On Smith Mountain

SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

The Smith Mountain prescribed fire, now a declared wildfire, is 30 percent contained and estimated to be 700 acres, with no structures lost.

“The Smith Mountain prescribed fire was declared a wildfire yesterday afternoon to be able to compete for resources to adequately suppress the fire,” said Frank Keeler, Bureau of Land Management High Desert District Fire Management Officer.



The BLM, in coordination with Albany County, Wyoming State Forestry Division and the Medicine Bow National Forest are engaged in controlling a prescribed fire that escaped confinement lines Sept. 27, in the Smith Mountain area, approximately 40 miles southeast of Casper.

Dispatched resources include: four engines, two helicopters, one Type-I hot shot crew and two TYPE-II IA hand crews.

Fire crews were on scene from the start and administered the prescribed burn to improve wildlife habitat, increase livestock forage and distribution, enhance rangeland vegetation health, reduce

hazardous fuels, and open areas to grasses and forbs and new, more palatable and nutritious shrubs and aspen.



The public is urged to use caution and avoid the area since fire behavior can change and fire spread is unpredictable if high winds develop.

For more information, please contact HDD Fire Management Officer, Frank Keeler at 307-352-0256.

Please report all wildfires immediately to the Rawlins Dispatch Center at 1-800-295-9953 or to emergency 911.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2014, the BLM generated \$5.2 billion in receipts from public lands.

ALBANY COUNTY, WY - *UPDATE* As of Wednesday morning (9/30/15) The Smith Mountain wildfire is 45 percent contained and estimated to be 800 acres, with no structures lost. It is estimated that the fire will be 100 percent contained by Monday, Oct. 5.

"At this time, our focus is on containing the fire and providing for the safety of those on the ground," said Frank Keeler, Bureau of Land Management High Desert District Fire Management Officer. "The fire is still under investigation."

The fire started as a prescribed fire on Monday, Sept. 21.

****ORIGINAL STORY FROM TUESDAY SEPT 29****

The Bureau of Land Management's High Desert District has upgraded the Smith Mountain prescribed burn to a declared wildfire.

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The fire started as a prescribed fire on Monday, Sept. 21. The fire moved in a north-northwesterly direction impacting State of Wyoming, BLM-administered, and private lands. The treatment is designed to improve wildlife habitat, increase livestock forage and distribution, enhance rangeland vegetation health, reduce hazardous fuels, and open areas to grasses and forbs and new, more palatable and nutritious shrubs and aspen.

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