



# NEWS RELEASE

## Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests & Thunder Basin National Grassland

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### Small fire in the Mount Zirkel Wilderness

(Walden, Colo June 29, 2007) A helicopter and 25 people are working to extinguish the two-acre Seven Lakes fire in the Big Creek drainage about three miles inside the Mount Zirkel Wilderness on the Parks Ranger District.

The lightning-caused fire is burning in heavy beetle-killed spruce in steep terrain and probably started on Wednesday evening when a thunderstorm cell moved through the area.

“We don’t want this fire to get a good foothold and burn out of the Wilderness and potentially threaten homes and other structures in the Big Creek Lakes area,” said Mark Cahur, fire management officer for the Routt National Forest. The Big Creek Lakes area is about 20 miles northwest of the Walden.

The helicopter worked for about two hours yesterday evening dropping water from Seven Lakes on the fire, and will continue working today.

The firefighters are doing mop-up and containment and expect to have the fire totally contained by Saturday. They are camping out near the site.

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