



UPPER COLORADO RIVER

FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT

BLM-NORTHWEST DISTRICT

USFS-WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST

NPS-COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT

INTERAGENCY



News Release
For Immediate Release

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Fall Creek, Notch Mountain Trails Closed due to Fall Creek Fire

Minturn, Colorado – Sept. 7, 2016, – The Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit (UCR) has detected a small .25 acre fire within the Holy Cross Wilderness on the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District, called the Fall Creek Fire. The fire is approximately two miles up the Fall Creek trail from Half Moon Campground. Due to the proximity of the fire to recreation routes the following trails will be [closed](#) for public safety:

- Fall Creek trail (trail #2001) from Halfmoon camp ground to the North end of Constantine Lake,
- Notch Mountain Trail (Trail 2000).

The fire is currently burning in spruce and fir. Due to the remote location of this fire and its location in Wilderness, the District and local fire personnel from the UCR will manage the Fall Creek Fire with a confine and contain strategy. This management strategy will allow crews to monitor the fire from a safe distance.

“The fire is still small, but our crews are keeping a close eye on fire activity and behavior,” said Aaron Mayville, District Ranger. “A well-managed fire in this area could really benefit the forest ecosystem and wildlife habitat, so we’ll continue to monitor the fire as we’ve been doing. Thanks for your patience with the trail closures, and please reach out to the Ranger Station if there are any questions.”

Crews have pre-identified a management area utilizing natural barriers such as rock formations and cliffs, trails and natural fire breaks. Within this management area, the fire will be allowed to take its natural course and provide benefits to the ecosystem.

Occasional torching and smoke may be visible from Highway 24.

Wildland Fire Managers have the option to manage naturally ignited fires to benefit the surrounding ecosystem. This management decision occurs where fire is a major component of the ecosystem and where specific pre-stated resource management objectives in a predefined geographic area can be accomplished. The goal of managing fires in this way is to allow fire to resume its natural role in the ecosystem.

Air resources and personnel from the UCR and the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District will continue to monitor the Fall Creek Fire closely. Crews will continue to manage the fire to benefit the surrounding area for as long as the objectives are being met. The UCR has identified management trigger points outside the perimeter of the fire. Should the fire reach these points, the UCR will re-asses as necessary and identify a course of action.

For more information about the Fall Creek Fire, please call the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District at 970-827-5715

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