



UPPER COLORADO RIVER

FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT

BLM-NORTHWEST DISTRICT

USFS-WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST

NPS-COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT

INTERAGENCY



September 11, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENT: A fire closure order is in effect for public safety. The closure includes Lost Solar Trail #1828. The closure order boundary is being re-evaluated due to the increase in the size of the fire.

Management: The Lost Solar Fire is being managed by Incident Commander Jim Genung of the Upper Colorado River Fire Management Unit in Meeker.

Starting Date and Cause: The fire started by lightning within the Flat Tops Wilderness on the White River National Forest on August 8th, 2016.

'Confine and Contain' Management Strategy: This Wilderness fire is being managed using a 'confine and contain' strategy which allows fire crews to monitor the fire from a safe distance, reducing their exposure to unnecessary risk. Other factors contributed to this decision, including the remote location of the fire, the steep and rocky terrain, weather conditions and benefits to the ecosystem. The benefits of allowing fire to take its natural course within the Wilderness are many, including reducing dead and weakened trees, regenerating vegetation and improving big game and other wildlife habitat.

Current Acreage: 3500 acres

Resources on the Fire: Thirty five personnel are assigned to the fire, including a Wildland Fire Module, a Type 3 helicopter and crew, and overhead.

Yesterday: The fire was active within the Lost Solar drainage, growing approximately 700 acres to the east. The fire is well within the planning area and the spread continues to achieve the objective of allowing fire to play its natural role in ecosystem health. It is burning primarily on the north side of Lost Solar Creek with some spotting on the south side of the creek. The Wildland Fire Module monitored fire behavior, weather and fuels and ensured structure protection measures were operational on private cabins below the fire on the south fork of the White River.

Today: Fire personnel will monitor the fire by air and ground. The Wildland Fire Module will continue to monitor fire behavior, weather and fuels and maintain cabin protection measures as needed.

Fire Weather and Smoke: Scattered showers and thunderstorms are predicted in the evening with gusty and erratic winds. An air quality monitor was set up yesterday in Yampa Valley to measure fine particulate matter. Transport winds today are expected to shift from yesterday's NW flow to a more westerly direction, taking this afternoon's smoke plume toward the east. It should be more visible than yesterday from Steamboat Springs and the eastern Yampa Valley, although no significant air quality impacts are expected in these areas. The forecast from Colorado department of Public Health and Environment can be found here: http://www.colorado.gov/airquality/colo_smoke.aspx.

Lost Solar Fire Information phone number is **970-456-1620**.
The website is: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/> and select the incident: Lost Solar Fire.
Email: LostSolarFire@gmail.com

####