



UPPER COLORADO RIVER FIRE AND AVIATION MANAGEMENT UNIT

BLM - NORTHWEST DISTRICT
BLM - SOUTHWEST DISTRICT
USFS - WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST

INTERAGENCY



SEPTEMBER 29, 2018

Media Contact: Marcia Gilles, Deputy District Ranger, 970-306-8689

Swift response by firefighters helps combat Two Elk Fire burning near Minturn, CO

Fire: Two Elk Fire

Containment: 0%

Acres: 25

Start Date: Sept. 29, 2018

Cause: Under Investigation (a fire investigator will be on-scene tomorrow)

Location: east of Minturn Shooting Range, Forest Service Lands

Total Personnel: 60

Fuels/Topography: grass, mountain shrub and mixed conifer

Update: Interagency engines, air resources and crews responded swiftly to a fire burning adjacent to the Minturn Shooting Range/Two Elk Shooting Area which started on the afternoon of Sept. 29, 2018, at around 1:00 p.m. The Two Elk fire started in grasses and shrub and then made a wind-driven run up the side of the ridge to the east of the shooting range. The fire is now burning in sage, grass, and mixed conifer with some single-tree torching and uphill runs, erratic winds remain a factor in fire behavior. The fire is burning in very steep terrain beneath multiple rock outcroppings.

A hand crew, two helicopters, a Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT), and multiple engines are on scene. No structures or infrastructure are threatened at this time. Earlier in the day, the SEAT dropped retardant on the south side of the fire to check fire spread. Additionally, two helicopters have been conducting multiple water bucket drops throughout the afternoon to check fire growth. Hand crews are using hose line to conduct direct suppression operations on the fire perimeter where it is safe to do so.

Smoke: Smoke may be visible from Minturn, Colo. and Highway 24.

No Fly Zone: Aerial operations are ongoing. Please refrain from flying drones in the area. Remember, if you fly, we can't.

Closures: The Minturn Shooting Range/Two Elk Shooting Area is closed due to ongoing fire operations. The Two Elk Trail is also closed. No other closures or evacuations are in place at this time. The public is asked to please avoid the area.

Fire Restrictions: Effective at 12 p.m. on Sept. 21, 2018, the White River National Forest reinstated Stage 1 Fire Restrictions. For more information about fire restrictions in these areas go to: https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2gjc/fireinfo_restrictions/index.html.

Fire Information:

Facebook: [U.S. Forest Service -White River National Forest](#) or [Eagle River Fire Protection District](#)

Twitter: [@WhiteRiverNews](#)

Website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/news/whiteriver/news-events>

Phone: Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District 970-827-5715

Photo Captions: All photos are courtesy of Eagle River Fire Protection District*

Heli_WaterDrops: Early in the afternoon on Sept. 29, a helicopter conducts water bucket drops in coordination with ground crews. Water drops check and slow fire spread. (photo credit: Eagle River Fire Protection District)

Firefighter _Hose: Firefighters conduct direct suppression operations on the perimeter of the fire by utilizing hose lay and water to check and slow fire spread. (photo credit: Eagle River Fire Protection District)



