

**All articles are from the local newspapers, Rocketminer, SweetwaterNow and Rawlinstimes**

## **Fire continues to rage south of Rock Springs**



Peggy Shuster Photo

Various city, state and national agencies are attempting to put out fires near US 191 south of Rock Springs.

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A fire continues to rage 20 miles south of Rock Springs off US 191 by mile marker 522 in Sweetwater County on Monday.

No structural damage or injuries have been reported, said Mike Bournazian, Sweetwater County fire warden.

He is uncertain how much of the fire has been contained.

Carbon County Fire Warden John Rutherford said that the area has had Red Flag warnings for four days in a row. A red flag is a warning designated by the National Weather Service telling people that conditions are ripe for wildfires.

"We can have it start at any time," Rutherford said.

About 800 acres of sagebrush; grass and juniper have been affected, Bournazian said.

The fires began around 3 p.m. Sunday, but causes still are under investigation.

The Sweetwater County Fire Department, BLM, the Wyoming State Forestry Division, U.S. Forest Service and fire departments from Fremont, Carbon and Uinta counties all have helped with the fire.

Seventy people have been deployed on air tankers and helicopters. Due to high winds, which will be in effect over the next couple of days, helicopters have been grounded.

"We've been fighting it all night and (Monday)," Troy Brown, public affairs for BLM, said. "Our biggest concern is the wind. Gusts of 30-40 mph could push it around faster."

Jason Anglin, meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Riverton, said the winds have reached 35 mph with gusts up to 46 mph.

"Dry, windy conditions can contribute to explosive fire growth," Anglin said.

While the fires are still roaring, Anglin said that winds should not exceed 20-25 mph Tuesday.

Anyone traveling south on US 191 should expect encounters with emergency vehicles and reduce their speed.

Bournazian said open burning is not allowed for the next 24-48 hours, while suggesting people be careful when camping and using recreational vehicles.

BLM urged people who see any wildfires to call 911.

# Calmer winds give firefighters an edge

Wildfire has claimed nearly 2,500 acres since Sunday



Bureau of Land Management Photo

On Tuesday, firefighters work to contain 50 percent of the fire off US 191 in the Bitter Creek area.

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Winds decreased significantly on Tuesday permitting firefighters to contain larger portions of a blaze south of Rock Springs.

The calmer conditions enabled the use of helicopters to aid in the firefighting effort. An additional fixed-wing aircraft was used earlier in the day to coordinate suppression operations on the ground.

About 2,487 acres of land has burned since Sunday along US 191, 20 miles south of Rock Springs in the Bitter Creek area. About 50 percent of the fire has been contained as the fire continues to hold, said Tony Brown, public affairs officer the Bureau of Land Management Wyoming High Desert District.

"We hope to turn the corner today, and to significantly increase containment by tonight," said Mike Bournazian, Sweetwater County fire warden.

Winds will continue to blow from 10-15 mph in the northwest through Wednesday, which will see temperatures jump back to the mid-80s, according to the National Weather Service in Riverton.

"The warmer temps on Wednesday may help," Brown said.

As of Tuesday night, 12 engines, two helicopters, three airplanes, one bulldozer are being used to fight the fire. Plus, about 100 local and BLM firefighters and support personnel are continuing to battle the fire.

The cause remains under investigation.

## Bitter Creek Fire 80 Percent Contained

- by [News Desk](#)
- July 29, 2015 at 6:36 pm

SWEETWATER COUNTY — Fire crews continued to make good progress on the Bitter Creek Fire. The fire is now 80% contained.

With the progress made today many of the firefighting resources are being released and several of them are being reassigned to new fires in and around the state.

All aircraft along with the dozer and several fire engines were released early this morning.

Weather forecasts over the next couple of days will continue to increase in temperature and the relative humidity will be in the single digits allowing for increased fire conditions.

This will cause some of the interior hot spots to possibly flare up and put smoke in the air. The public can expect to see these few hot spots from within the fire perimeter during this time and that they are being mitigated as they are identified by the resources on scene.

All County and BLM roads remain open.

However, officials are asking that the public to please allow a few more days of uninterrupted access around the fire and that public use of the local roads especially Maggie Spring and County Rd 27 only be used if necessary.

They expect that by the weekend the remaining firefighting resources will have been released.

