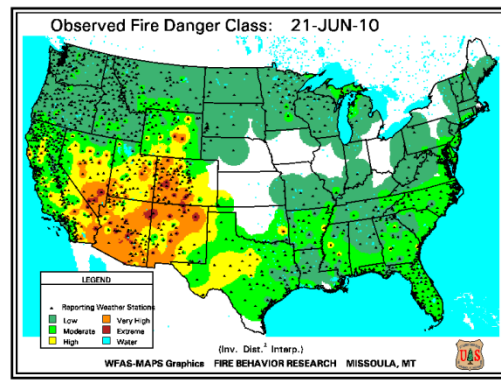




2010 Colorado Wildfire Season June 23, 2010 Update



*No updates have been made today to the Wildland Fire Assessment System map

Current Large Fires in Colorado

Several large fires currently are burning in the state, including:

- The **Parkdale Canyon Fire** continues to be the focus for fire resources in the state (full details below).
- The lightning-caused Medano Fire, 25 miles northeast of Alamosa in Saguache County, has been burning since June 6. The fire is burning in rugged terrain on the east side of Great Sand Dunes National Park and in the San Isabel National Forest. The fire is estimated to have burned 4,891 acres, but no homes currently are threatened. The fire is 7 percent contained, and the Park remains open.
- The lightning-caused Water Creek Fire, 8 miles west of Rifle, has burned approximately 109 acres of primarily dead and downed timber and spruce/fir since it began June 19. It is 22 percent contained and being managed for multiple objectives.

Parkdale Canyon Fire ~ Update from 6:00 a.m., June 23, 2010

Location / County: County Road 61, south of Highway 50 and northwest of the Royal Gorge Bridge in Fremont County. Approximately 6 miles northwest of Cañon City.

Start Date: June 21, 2010

Acres: Approximately 700 acres of piñon pine, juniper and brush. Burned acreage has not increased significantly since yesterday.

Containment: 15 percent

Evacuations: Evacuations along County Road 3A north for five miles have been lifted; however, west of Highway 9 along the Highway 50 corridor to Parkdale remains on a soft evacuation notice. This means residents are allowed in with the understanding that they need to be prepared for a possible immediate evacuation if the need arises.

Structures Lost/Damaged: Multiple structures have been damaged

Other Values at Risk: An additional 110 structures, plus campground and businesses (those within 2 miles of the fire perimeter)

Significant Events: Perimeter control and helicopter operations continue. The Royal Gorge Bridge, Buckskin Joe and a KOA campground remain closed until the fire no longer poses a threat to those locations; the Arkansas River in the Gorge is also closed to rafting. Highway 50 between the turnoff to Highway 9 and Parkdale has been reopened to one-way traffic guided by a pilot car. This fire has become the number-one priority for the Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center, meaning that it currently receives the highest priority for regional resources.

Cause: Possibly human-caused; the cause of the fire is under investigation.

Cost (Estimated): \$325,000 (to date)

Resources: Approximately 275 personnel; the Type II Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team B, under Incident Commander Todd Pechota, assumed management of the fire last night. Multiple interagency, county and federal crews are on the fire, including the Type II Northern Colorado Crew (which includes CSFS firefighters), the Juniper Valley Corrections Crew and the Pike Hotshot Crew. One CSFS single-engine air tanker (SEAT), one heavy air tanker, 15 engines (one CSFS), two water tenders and three helicopters are committed or available to the fire.

EFF/ FEMA Status: EFF only

Activity Summary

- Regional resources are being requested at a more rapid pace, due to multiple large fires burning in Arizona and the two larger Colorado fires.
- There are no new large fires in the Rocky Mountain Area. For more information, go to: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
- No management teams from this region currently are working out of state (Sit report: <http://www.nifc.gov/news/nicc.html> or <http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/logistics/overhead.html>)

Current Colorado Fire Outlook

- The fire situation rating for the Rocky Mountain Area remains at **Preparedness Level 2**, indicating that resources within local dispatch areas are still adequate, with the potential for some mobilization of additional resources from other local dispatch areas.
- The national fire danger map at http://www.fs.fed.us/land/wfas/fd_class.png, shown at the top of this report, has not been updated for today.
- All Red Flag Warnings for Colorado have expired for today. For more information, go to <http://www.weather.gov/alerts/co.html>. A map can be viewed at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/firewx/main.php>.
- A slight decrease in large fire potential is forecast for today, due to cooler temperatures and decreasing winds. Temperatures will be cooler along the Front Range and eastern plains, but

warming on the Western Slope is expected. Isolated, dry thunderstorms are expected along the southern Front Range.

Current National Fire Information

For National Fire Maps, go to:

- <http://geomac.usgs.gov/> (and click on “Quick View Active Perimeters”)
- <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf> for national fire news and the national preparedness level. Large fires burning in the Southwest, particularly in Arizona, may impact current resource availability for Colorado. Nationally, 38 large fires are being managed to achieve multiple objectives.