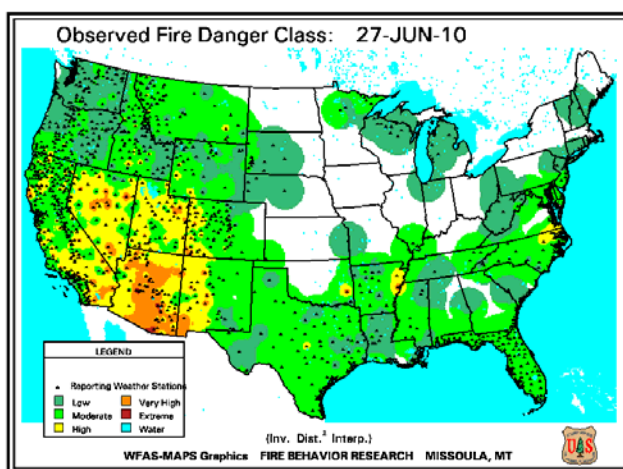




## 2010 Colorado Wildfire Season June 28, 2010 Update



### Current/Recent Large Fires in Colorado

**Note:** This is the final report the CSFS will distribute for the fires named below, unless their status changes significantly. Another Colorado Wildfire Season report will be issued upon the re-development of fire activity in the state.

- **The Parkdale Canyon Fire**, 6 miles northwest of Cañon City near the Royal Gorge, is now 100 percent contained. The fire started June 21 and burned 628 acres. The fire was human-caused, but the exact cause is still under investigation. **Approximately \$1 million of the state's Emergency Fire Fund (EFF) was utilized for this fire.**
- **The Medano Fire**, 25 miles northeast of Alamosa in Saguache and Huerfano counties, has been burning since June 6 following a lightning strike. The fire is burning in rugged terrain on the east side of Great Sand Dunes National Park and in the San Isabel National Forest, and continues to have a high potential for growth. The fire is estimated to have burned 5,449 acres to date, and is 7 percent contained. A confinement strategy remains in place and limited perimeter control is planned for when the opportunity presents itself, as historic and cultural sites are threatened. There are 351 personnel on the fire, including CSFS personnel and state inmate crews. The Park remains open.
- **The Cow Creek Fire**, 4 miles west of Glen Haven in Rocky Mountain National Park, received significant media attention this weekend. The fire was entirely within the Park and is not within the jurisdiction of the CSFS; for that reason, the CSFS did not generate a weekend report specifically for that fire, nor will a future report be generated unless the fire moves onto

private or state land. The fire now is reported at 888 acres and is 5 percent contained; it is being managed under a confine/contain strategy with 95 personnel assigned and air support in place to limit growth.

- **The Water Creek Fire**, 8 miles west of Rifle, has burned approximately 216 acres of primarily dead and downed timber and spruce/fir since it began June 19. The fire is being managed for multiple objectives under a confinement strategy.
- **The Round Mountain Fire**, three miles east of Drake, was first reported on June 25. After more accurate mapping, the fire is reported to be smaller than earlier reports indicated. The fire has burned 76 acres of Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest and private land. The fire is 95 percent contained.
- **The Goshorn Fire**, approximately 15 miles southeast of Norwood, burned 291 acres and is now 100 percent contained.

### **CSFS Statewide Resource Summary**

- The two CSFS single-engine air tankers (SEATs) currently are located at the Fremont County and La Plata County airports. The crash of an air tanker at Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport on June 26 grounded all wildfire flight operations in Colorado until a crash investigation had been completed; however, as of today, fire aircraft in the state again are cleared for operations.
- All four permanently staffed CSFS wildland-urban interface engines and their crews are assigned to wildfires in Colorado, with two engines on the Front Range and two on the Western Slope.
- A total of 23 CSFS personnel currently are engaged in fire operations on Colorado wildfires, including the Medano Fire and Cow Creek Fire.

### **Activity Summary**

- Some Rocky Mountain Area resources may remain in or be dispatched to the Southwest Area due to higher fire activity there.
- No new large fires have been reported 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 remain 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](http://www.fs.fed.us/land/wfas/fd_class.png), shown at the top of this report, shows moderate fire danger for most of the state, with high to very high fire danger on lower-elevation portions of the Western Slope.
- No Red Flag Warnings have been issued in Colorado 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 cold front moved into central and eastern Colorado over the weekend, increasing relative humidity (RH). It will be warmer and drier over Colorado today, but subtropical moisture will

allow for scattered thunderstorms over central and southern Colorado; thus, the large fire potential has decreased for today. Temperatures will be in the upper 80s to low 90s, with very low RH values on the Western Slope.

### **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, 42 large fires are being managed to achieve multiple objectives.