

Twitchell Canyon Fire Update

For August 12, 2010

Start Date: July 20, 2010

Location: 13.5 miles northeast of Beaver, Utah – near Manderfield Reservoir

Jurisdiction: National Forest System lands

Cause: Lightning

Fire Size: 2,993 acres

Fuel Type: The fire is burning in ponderosa pine, spruce, fir, aspen, pinyon, and juniper. A mix of live and dead down and standing trees and brush are fueling the fire.

Evacuations: None in effect.

Closures: Indian Creek Road from the junction of the Pole Canyon Road to Manderfield Reservoir

Resources Assigned: 1 (10 person) Wildland Fire Module (WFM), 1 Type VI Engine, and overhead.

Observed Fire Behavior: The last several days, as high temperatures have gradually risen and the relative humidity has dropped, the fire has been observed to make much longer runs and put up more smoke than was previously observed from this fire. Smoke was expected and observed for a short time Wednesday evening as far north as Emery and Sanpete Counties. The fire grew Wednesday by about 1,800 acres. The increased fire area occurred predominately on the northern and northeastern part of the Indian Creek Watershed above Manderfield Reservoir by strong winds pushing from the southwest.

Comments: This lightning-caused fire is likely to burn throughout the summer. Smoke and haze may be visible from the surrounding communities. Smoke may pool in low areas in the early morning hours and later in the day may lower visibility along travel corridors including both I-15 and I-70.

Our management balances the concerns for public and firefighter safety, forecasted weather, expected fire behavior, and long term plans and objectives for the area that include forest health concerns, and long term sustainability of ecosystems that evolved in the presence of periodic fire.

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