



Bureau of Land Management

Utah
News

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Choke Cherry Fire Slows Growth on Day 3

Ibapah, Utah – Fire crews on the Choke Cherry Fire had a successful day holding the perimeter of the fire. The acreage of the fire has reached 1,554. Air support aided in the suppression effort, dropping water and fire retardant on active areas of the fire. We are at 20% containment, as of this morning. On Tuesday the origin of the fire was determined by fire investigators to be lightning caused.

The fire is located in the Deep Creek Mountains Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and being managed to consider these values. This is an area managed for its natural resources and pristine environment. Firefighters are avoiding critical areas within the WSA to prevent disturbances. Other concerns on the fire are the cultural implications in the area. The Historic Pony Express Trail, as well as Native American sites is being taken into account during fire suppression planning.

Despite the severe weather conditions yesterday, fire activity began tapering off by the evening. While a few small areas of heat are visible, the main fire activity remains in the upper reaches of Pole Canyon. Weather patterns continue with hot, dry winds and high temperatures today. Crews are monitoring the wind conditions carefully to assure firefighter safety. Much of the threat of the fire coming out of the WSA and off of BLM lands has been minimized. Local resources have been released from the fire to provide for initial attack of new fires.

Total Fire Personnel =182
6— 20-Person Crews (including 2 Interagency Hotshot Crews)
8 Engines
6 Water Tenders
2 Helicopters with bucket capabilities
2 Airplanes (air attack)
8 Smokejumpers out of Boise, Idaho

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Pic 1: Operations Section Chief Kevin Kutterer surveys the fire from above



Pic 2: Helicopter pilot observes single engine air tanker (SEAT) dropping over the Choke Cherry Fire

-NUIFC Type 3 Incident Management Team-