416 Fire Update

Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team - Todd Pechota, Incident Commander
Information Center: 970-403-5326
Hours of operation: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Website for 416 Fire: https://wwwinciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5822
Email: 2018_cosjf_416@firenet.gov

June 18, 2018 (8 p.m.)

Weather: Tonight’s temperatures will be between 47 and 52 and winds will remain calm. Tomorrow will be mostly sunny and clear, with temperatures 76-79 for the highs and 47-53 for the lows. Minimum relative humidity will be 15-20%, with a maximum of 30-35%. Winds will be from the southwest at 8-12 mph with gusts to 25 mph. A warming, drying trend will continue through the week with relative humidity values moving into the lower teens by Thursday. Isolated, dry thunderstorms may return on Thursday and Friday.

Current Situation: Tonight, six engines will patrol and monitor the fire perimeter.

Fire behavior was limited today with minimal to no growth. As heat returns and fuels quickly dry out, some smoke will likely be visible as fuels smolder in already burned areas, and some fuels could kindle with flame. Activity tends to increase soonest on exposed areas such as ridge tops. It will take significant amounts of rain over time to completely cool the 416 Fire.

Branch I (Divisions H, D, A, E, F, and G):
All hotshot crews were able to work on the ridge today. Vale and Entiat Hotshots flew in by helicopter and worked on direct line. Three other crews (Flagstaff, Crane Valley, and Craig) hiked in from the area of Falls Creek Rd, and five others (Helena, San Juan, Bitterroot, Wolf Creek, and Idaho Panhandle) hiked in from the Junction Creek Rd. The hotshot crews made significant progress on building direct and indirect line. Several crews will spike out (set small camps and sleep) in the forest tonight.

Firefighters continued to remove fuel from around the structures at the end of Junction Creek Rd.

Crews in Divisions E and F have nearly completed the alternate lines going toward Junction Creek.

Branch III (Divisions X, Y and Z): Crews were chipping in Division X today to clean up previously cut logs. Firefighters are looking for rehabilitation opportunities in Divisions Y and Z (as well as in Division A).

Division II: The Burro Fire is producing a separate update. See: https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5834/

Closures and Public Safety: U.S. Highway 550 is open without an escort. For up to date information visit www.cotrip.org. For evacuation information, please contact the La Plata County Emergency Operations Center at 970-385-8700 or visit www.co.laplata.co.us. La Plata County’s 416 Fire Interactive Map is at https://bit.ly/416fire. Here, you can pinpoint whether you are in an evacuation or pre-evacuation zone, as well as your proximity to the fire’s perimeter.

There are still countless recreational opportunities available and southwestern Colorado is open for business. Please see these websites for tourism and recreational opportunities:

La Plata County: http://co.laplata.co.us/
Official Durango Tourism site: https://www.durango.org/
Durango Business Improvement District http://downtowndurango.org/
Silverton, CO Chamber of Commerce: http://www.silvertoncolorado.com/ and other area chambers of commerce

Fire Statistics:
Location: 13 miles north of Durango, CO
Start Date: June 1, 2018
Size: 34,161 acres
Percent Contained: 35
Total Personnel: 847
Cause: Under Investigation
Resources Include: 10 Type 1 hand crews, 8 Type 2 hand crews, 24 engines, 10 dozers, 2 water tenders
Helicopters: Three Type 1 (including the Blackhawk), two Type 2, and two Type 3, (as well as two fixed wing aircraft)