



Forest Service News Release

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Lowline Fire Update

Gunnison, Colorado, July 26, 2023

8 p.m.

Name: Lowline Fire

Location: 14 miles north northeast of Gunnison, CO, 11 miles southwest of Crested Butte, CO. Located on a ridge at 9400 ft elevation between Squirrel and Mill Creeks, 3.5 miles west of County Road 730, Ohio Pass Road.

Size: Approximately 400 acres

Cause: Lightning

Jurisdiction: USFS

Containment: 0%

Threatened Structures: 10

At approximately 8 a.m. Wednesday, July 26, the Lowline Fire was reported on the north aspect of a ridge between Squirrel and Mill Creeks in Gunnison County.

The fire was estimated at 400 acres in size by a Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control Multimission Aircraft infrared flight at 5:30 p.m. Fire behavior is currently group crowning with short-distance spotting in spruce and aspen forest with heavy dead and down timber. Several local, state and federal engines and hand crews are on scene working to suppress the fire. Additional resources are en route. One Type 2 helicopter and two Type 1 helicopters are assigned to the fire and 11 air tankers from across the country have made drops throughout the day. A Complex Incident Management Team has been ordered. The fire is zero percent contained as of 8 p.m.

Ten structures are threatened in the Mill Creek and Squirrel drainages, which are under mandatory evacuations. The National Forest System Trail #438-Lowline trail is closed. County Roads 727, 818, and 7 off of 818 are barricaded. Closure updates will be posted to the GMUG Fire Information

Facebook page. In the interest of public safety, fire officials ask visitors to be aware of fire traffic and avoid the area. Firefighter and public safety are the priorities for this incident.

Fire Information Links:

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests Fire Information: **(970) 874-6602**

GMUG Fire Info Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GMUGFireInfo>

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests website: www.fs.usda.gov/gmug

West Slope Fire Information: www.WestSlopeFireInfo.com

Twitter: https://twitter.com/GMUG_NF

For information about evacuations:

Gunnison County Emergency Management: www.gunnisoncounty.org

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The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre & Gunnison National Forests manage approximately 3 million acres of land in Southwest Colorado within Delta, Garfield, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, Saguache, San Juan and San Miguel counties.