



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

News Release

BLM Colorado Gunnison Field Office

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BLM issues Temporary Closure Order for public lands in Gunnison Field Office

GUNNISON, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management has implemented a temporary closure to all public use for 978 acres of public land in Gunnison Field Office, from Cunningham Gulch north to Mill Creek Road (Gunnison County Road 727). **Gunnison Field Manager Jon Kaminsky** issued the Temporary Closure Order in response to the Lowline Fire, actively burning in Gunnison National Forest about 14 miles north-northwest of Gunnison and 11 miles southwest of Crested Butte in Gunnison County, CO. The BLM closure provides for increased public safety and enables firefighters to focus on suppression efforts, and will remain in effect until firefighting operations are completed and safe public access is ensured.

“While our hope is that the Lowline Fire is contained without spreading to BLM-managed lands, the safety of visitors, residents, and fire crews remains our top priority,” said Jon Kaminsky. “We are working closely with the U.S. Forest Service, Gunnison County, and the Incident Management Team to monitor and address the situation.”

The Lowline Fire is a lightning-ignited wildfire first reported on July 26. The fire has burned close to 800 acres along a ridge at about 9,400 feet, primarily in mixed conifer forest, including heavy dead and down fuels, along with grasses and shrubs. The U.S. Forest Service issued a Forest Closure Order on July 27. In addition, Gunnison County issued mandatory evacuations for residents in the Squirrel Creek and Mill Creek drainages. Rocky Mountain Complex Incident Management Team 1 assumed management responsibility for the fire under Incident Commander Dan Dallas. Firefighting resources are focused on minimizing impacts to structures and other values at risk. Containment is currently estimated at 1%.

Current information on the Lowline Fire is available online at <https://inciweb.nwccg.gov/incident-information/cogmf-lowline-fire>. BLM Southwest District fire notices are posted online at <https://www.blm.gov/programs/public-safety-and-fire/fire-and-aviation/regional-information/colorado/southwest-district> and on <https://www.facebook.com/BLMMontroseFireUnit>. The BLM reminds the public that wildfires are a no-fly zone for unauthorized aircraft, including drones. Remember—“if you fly, we can’t.” For more information, visit <http://knowbeforeyoufly.org>.

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The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 western states, including Alaska, on behalf of the American people. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. Our mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America’s public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.