



# Bear Creek Fire

## August 10, 2023

<p><b><u>Fire start date:</u></b> August 1, 2023</p> <p><b><u>Fire size today:</u></b> 330 acres</p> <p><b><u>Containment:</u></b> 0%</p> <p><b><u>Location:</u></b> 23 miles Northwest of Pagosa Springs, Colorado</p> <p><b><u>Personnel:</u></b> 103</p> <p><b><u>Cause:</u></b> Lightning</p> <p><b><u>Management:</u></b> Suppression</p> <p><b><u>Evacuation Information:</u></b> Weminuche Valley is under pre-evacuation notice. Local residents should follow incident information and updates.</p> <p><b><u>Closures:</u></b> <a href="https://tinyurl.com/2vy7ec3p">tinyurl.com/2vy7ec3p</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire area closure</li> <li>• Cloman Park in Pagosa Springs</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Latest Smoke Outlook:</u></b> <a href="https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/933fc4e4">outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/933fc4e4</a></p>	<p><b>INCIDENT OBJECTIVES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firefighter and Public safety will be the highest priority throughout all phases of the incident.</li> <li>• To protect private lands within the Weminuche Creek drainages, critical infrastructure including powerlines and gas utility lines, as well as natural resources, cultural and historic sites, and recreation assets.</li> </ul> <p>Fire behavior moderated yesterday thanks to cloud cover and higher relative humidity. The less fire-prone aspen stands to the east and south of the fire also slowed growth. Firefighters have been unable to directly engage due the dangerous loading of dead timber both standing and down. They are, however, prepared for when the fire backs down to the Weminuche Valley, providing an anchor point to begin suppression operations. Structure protection groups are in place, monitoring the fire from the meadow day and night. The Type 3 Team has assumed command of an additional small fire burning in a very remote area northwest of Bear Creek near Slide Mountain, named the Mosca Fire. This fire is five acres and burning in very difficult terrain and fuel types. A National Incident Management Organization Team will assume command of these incidents August 12<sup>th</sup> at 0600, providing additional capacity and oversight.</p> <p><b>YESTERDAY’S ACCOMPLISHMENTS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire managers scouted the Mosca Road to the south of the fire for potential dozer and hand line, should that contingency be needed.</li> <li>• Crews in the Weminuche Valley area assessed risk level to private land/structures and developed and implemented structure protection plans.</li> <li>• Local ground fire resources continued to directly monitor fire growth and directional spread. These observations are critical to assessing the probability of success of the current incident strategy being achieved.</li> </ul> <p><b>TODAY’S PLAN:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structure protection groups will be in place in the Weminuche Valley.</li> <li>• Operational overhead will continue scouting indirect control opportunities to the south along the Mosca Road, tying that east into the Weminuche Valley.</li> <li>• Incoming resources will be briefed and assigned operational assignments.</li> <li>• Continue to collaboratively develop Management Action Points (MAP) with cooperators and stakeholders. MAPs are clearly specified incident conditions that, when reached, prompt a predefined fire management action or trigger the implementation of new strategies/tactics.</li> <li>• Communicate with landowners, affected utilities, and county stakeholders.</li> </ul> <p><b>WEATHER:</b></p> <p>The weather trend includes increasing chances of rain showers. Lower temperatures and higher humidities are expected, as are scattered showers and thunderstorms.</p>
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