

Management Action Points Sand Creek CO-SJF-000436 June 25, 2020

Appx 70 ac at 1800
6/23/2020



0 0.5 1
Miles

MAP 1 (Sand Bench): Fire has a moderate probability of approaching the Sand Bench Management Action Point. The slopes between the fire and the MAP burned with a high severity in 2012 and do not contain heavy fuel loads.
Actions:
 • If the fire does become established on the Sand Bench direct attack with ground based firefighters becomes more favorable.
 • Consider a type 4 or type 3 IMT dependent upon fire conditions.
Resources:
 • Type 3 or 4 IMT
 • 3 Engines (Type 3, 4, or 6)
 • 1 IHC
 • 2 Type 1 or Type 2 Helicopters

MAP 3 (Piedra Special Area Boundary): Fire has a moderate to high probability of crossing the boundary of the Piedra Special Use Area Boundary.
Actions:
 • Consider a Type 3 IMT
 • Assess the viability of the Mosca Rd as a holding feature
 • Communicate with Columbine Rd if the potential exists for the Sand Creek incident to cross the distinct boundary
Resources:
 • 3 Engines (Type 3, 4, or 6)
 • 2 Wildland Fire Modules
 • 1 IHC
 • Additional rotor wing aviation.

MAP 4 (Weminuche Valley): Location: Prominent ridge between Weminuche Valley and Little Sand Creek running in a northwest to southeast direction northeast of Little Sand Creek. Includes the 631 road that bisects the Weminuche Valley Management Action Point (MAP). When the fire reaches or threatens the ridge line south and upslope from the Poma Ranch and Lindner Ranch and other private Properties in the Weminuche Valley.
Resource Concerns: Lands to the north east side of this MAP are privately owned, known as the Weminuche Valley. There are numerous structures in the timber on the edge of the meadow. The west side is Forest Service land. The Mosca Road (FDR 631) bisects this MAP.
Fuel Type: Dense, moist-site mixed conifer on north aspects with moderately dense, dry-site mixed conifer on ridge tops/flats, giving way to shortgrass meadows to the northeast and east.
Actions:
 • Keep fire south and west of Weminuche River Valley
 • Consider implementing appropriate structure protection plan. Structure prep and fuel mitigation should be implemented in the Poma Ranch area. Consider sprinkler and hose systems at structures and make ready for activation. Structure wrap could be positioned nearby.
 • Conditions may allow for evaluation of containment options in agricultural lands along Weminuche Creek, where resistance to control should be lessened. May consider burnout and/or direct attack in lighter fuels.
 • Engage County Emergency Manager for implementation of appropriate evacuation plans.
 • Engage utility company to shut off appropriate power lines.
 • Consider expanding Forest Area and Trail Closure
Resources:
 • 1 IHC strike team
 • 1 Strike Team/Task Force Type 5/6 engines or similar resource plus overhead
 • 1 Type 1 helicopter and/or 1 Type 2/3 helicopter w/bucket and crew
 • 1 Type 2/3 dozer or similar resource

MAP 5 (Weminuche Creek/Trail Ridge): Location: From the Piedra River, north along Weminuche Creek to the south end of the Weminuche Valley Management Action Point (MAP) near the eastern Planning area boundary. When fire reaches or threatens to reach the Weminuche Creek/Trail Ridge MAP.
Management Intent: Through development of evacuation alert and implementation processes, minimize potential impacts to State and private property and infrastructure and Forest Service developments and infrastructure east of Weminuche Creek and in the Williams Creek Reservoir and Palsade Lake areas to the north and northeast.
Resource Concerns: To the north and east of this MAP is the Piedra Road (FDR 631). A powerline runs just east of the Piedra Road then west near the northern portion of the MAP provides power to the Weminuche Valley developments. The Piedra Road Stock Drive runs north-south through the northern portion. This is an historic trail which is an eligible site. This trail can be used for access, but should not be expanded using bulldozers.
Fuel Type: Predominantly moderately dense dry-site mixed conifer/ponderosa pine on ridge top and canyon sides. Opens to mosaic of timbered islands and short grass meadows further east along the Piedra road.
Actions:
 • Any fire or imminent possibility of fire east of Weminuche Creek will initiate recommendation for pre-evacuation notice.
 • Considering potential fire behavior, evaluate safety and access issues to determine appropriate resource for direct attack.
 • Evaluate containment options in lighter grass fuels and timbered areas along the Piedra Road. Consider burnout and/or direct attack in lighter or thinned fuels.
 • Engage County Emergency Manager for implementation of evacuation plans.
 • Engage utility company to shut off power line.
 • Utilize appropriate structure protection plans. Consider structure prep and fuel mitigation activities along Piedra road and structures in the Sportsman and Taylor Lane areas.
 • Consider expanding Forest Area and Trail closure.
Resources:
 • 1 Type 1 crew or similar resource
 • 1 Strike Team/Task Force Type 6 engines or similar resource
 • 1 ST/TF Type 3/4 engines or similar resource for structure protection.
 • 1 Type 2/3 dozer or similar resource
 • 1 Type 1 helicopter and/or 1 Type 2/3 helicopter w/bucket and crew

MAP 2 (South): Fire has a moderate to high probability of crossing this MAP. The fuel loading on the west side of Sand Creek is more continuous. The fire will be transitioning into a different fuel type. The change will be from a dead fuel type and into a fuel type with live crowns. More aggressive fire behavior can be expected. Fire modeling should anticipate increased fire behavior and growth in a fuel type with continuous fuels and intact crowns.
Actions:
 • Communicate and coordinate with the AA and Forest Duty Officer on the situation.
 • Determine if the fire poses a threat to crossing the Piedra river.
 • Assess where and if ground based resources can find a location to engage.
 • Consider notifying Archuleta County authorities if fire is moving into their county from Hinsdale County to the north.
 • Consider additional Area and Trail Closures.
Resources:
 • Consider ordering additional W&L Land Fire Modules (Type 1 or 2).
 • Consider ordering IHCs.
 • Consider ordering additional rotor wing aviation resources

MAP 7 (Coldwater XT): Location: Area east of Coldwater Creek and First Fork, north of the Piedra river. Fire becomes established west of MAP 2 and threatens the Coldwater Creek MAP 7.
Management Intent: Keep fire east of Coldwater Creek and First Fork, and north of the Piedra river.
Resource Concerns: Continued dense timber (not burned in the 2012 Little Sand Fire) and approaching Ranger District Boundary
Actions:
 • Considering potential fire behavior, evaluate if fire can be safely and successfully kept north of the Piedra River and east of Coldwater Creek and First Fork.
 • Aggressive initial attack to contain spot fires.
 • Do not use dozers in Piedra Special Area without consultation with Pagosa District Ranger.
 • Notify Columbine District Ranger who will evaluate the need to implement closures connected to Pine River Trail system and Vallecito area and notify La Plata County Officials.
 • Position dozer near Beaver Meadow Road system.
 • Evaluate need to staff Baily Mtn. Trail contingency line.
 • Close Sheep Creek Hot Springs Trail
 • Evaluate the need to evacuate Hunter Spike and Monument Horse Spike.
Resources:
 • 1 Wildland Fire Module
 • 1 Type 1 helicopter
 • 1 Dozer

MAP 6 (Piedra River): Location: A fire on the north side of the Piedra river in the general area of the Piedra River Trail along the southern edge of the current planning area boundary. Fire continues south of Management Action Point 2 "South" threatening to reach the Piedra river.
Management Intent: Assess the threat of the fire crossing the Piedra river. Look for opportunities to reduce fire behavior and spotting potential over the river.
Resource Concerns: The First Fork Campsite is located on the east side of the Piedra River near the second box bridge site. There are additional eligible cultural sites within or near this MAP, one in a meadow south of the Piedra River and another near the south edge of the MAP.
Fuel Type: Dense, moist-site mixed conifer on north aspects above river. Moderately dense dry-site mixed conifer on ridge top.
Actions:
 • Assess opportunities utilizing trails and lighter fuels on south facing slopes along the north side of the Piedra river to minimize fire behavior and stop fire spread.
 • As appropriate to values threatened, utilize aircraft to check or slow fire spread. Terrain and fuel conditions may limit ground-based resource response options.
 • Consider mitigation needs at First Fork Trailhead and bridge.
 • Ensure implementation of Forest Area and Trail Closures in the area.
 • Order READ
Resources:
 • 2 Wildland Fire Modules
 • 2 Type 1 helicopters
 • READ

- Drop Point
- Unimproved Landing Area
- Helispot
- Ⓜ Lookout
- Ⓜ Mobile Weather Unit
- Ⓜ Repeater
- Ⓜ Staging Area
- Ⓜ Division Break
- Sand_Creek_MAP_Combined
- Local or 4WD road
- Trail
- Uncontrolled Fire Edge
- Wildfire Daily Fire Perimeter
- Fire History
- Private
- State, County, City; Areas
- US Forest Service