

U.S. Forest Service Coconino National Forest 1824 S. Thompson Street Flagstaff, Ariz. 86001

News Release

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Point wildfire update

Sedona, Ariz., July 25, 2016, For Immediate Release — The Point Fire continues to burn in the Munds Mountain Wilderness located east of State Highway 179 and south of Sedona and Schnebly Hill Road.

No significant growth occurred yesterday given favorable weather conditions and helicopter water-drop assistance. Fire crews were also successful in safely completing a fire line to the north of the fire on Munds Mountain mesa.

"Today, fire operations will continue to utilize air attack and ground crews to secure the fire line along the rim in the current footprint to limit further spread," said Incident Commander Trainee Aaron Graeser. "Firefighter safety continues to be our primary concern given difficult terrain, steep and heavily vegetated side canyons and the potential hazard of monsoon thunderstorms."

An increase in smoke may be evident over the next several days as it continues to burn in areas that firefighters cannot access which may be visible from various parts of the Verde Valley and along Interstate 17.

For public and fire fighter safety, individuals are asked to be mindful of Munds Mountain and Jack Canyon trail closures. The public should also refrain from flying drones over or near the fire, as doing so will cease operations that are fighting the fire with water drops from the air.

POINT FIRE OVERVIEW:

Current Size: Approximately 191 acres

Start Date: July 20, 2016

Cause: Lightning

Location: Munds Mountain Wilderness mesa, approximately 2.5 miles east/southeast of Sedona.

Containment: 30 percent

Trails Closed to hikers: Munds Mountain Trail and Jacks Canyon Trail

Resources: One Type 1 Crew, three Helitack crews, two Fuels crews, four helicopters, three single

engine air tankers and one engine crew; Total of approximately 55 firefighters

Cooperating Agencies: Sedona Fire Department, Sedona Airport and the City of Sedona.

Public Updates: The public can get detailed updates as they become available at Inciweb at http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4882/. Follow us on Twitter for quick headline updates at twitter.com/coconinonf.