



Lee and Elk Fires

White River Field Office, BLM

Fire Information: 970-341-8665
2025.Lee@firenet.gov

<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/cowrd-lee-fire>
<https://www.facebook.com/elkleefire>

August 20, 2025

Northern Rockies Complex Incident Management Team 1, Incident Commander Brent Olson

Location: 11 miles south of Meeker, Colorado

Start Date: 08/02/2025

Cause: Lightning **Size:** Lee Fire: 137,755 acres | Elk Fire: 14,518 acres

Containment: Lee Fire: 68% | Elk Fire: 100%

523 Total Personnel; 5 Helicopters; 28 Engines; 6 Hand Crews; 7 Water Tenders; 5 Dozers

CURRENT STATUS:

Lee Fire – Yesterday firefighters evaluated structure protection needs in unaffected areas and began disassembling and backhauling unnecessary supplies. Crews patrolled the fire lines and monitored for hot spots. Today crews intend to clean up some remaining interior pockets of unburned fuel, creating a more uniform black footprint. Firefighters will patrol the fire perimeter and increase mop-up depth where possible along the fire lines. Contingency equipment and crews are identified to respond and support the local fire response agencies if they need initial attack assistance on any new fires.

Elk Fire – For the next few days, suppression repair teams will operate heavy machinery to loosen the soil and disperse vegetation, reestablishing the land's original contours and surface features. These efforts are essential for curbing erosion, securing soil stability, and encouraging vigorous vegetation regrowth. The impacts caused by the firefighting efforts are the focus of this repair work.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Record temperatures are expected throughout the week. Chances for moisture will gradually increase each day. Limited rainfall is expected in the next few days, but strong outflow winds and lightning will be possible. Wetting rain chances increase this weekend and into early next week.

Another warm and dry day will bring moderate to active fire behavior in unburned islands that still hold heat on their perimeters. Surface fire spread along with single tree and group tree torching will produce visible smoke columns.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

The Piceance Creek Road (CR 5) remains closed. For accurate up-to-date information on evacuations and road closures for Rio Blanco County go to the Rio Blanco County Sheriff's Office Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/RioBlancoCountySheriffsOffice>. For Garfield County updates go to: <https://www.garfieldcounty.net/>. White River National Forest closure information is available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/whiteriver/alerts>. BLM White River Field Office closure information is available at: <https://ow.ly/78uF50WGjNW>.