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News Release

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Burro and 416 Fires Actively Burning in the San Juan National Forest

Durango, Colorado –

Two wildfires on the San Juan National Forest are continuing to actively burn during the hot and dry weather. Forest fuels are drying and each day become easier to burn, allowing the fires to grow.

The Burro Fire is active in the upper reaches of the Bear Creek drainage, growing an estimated 300 acres since Wednesday. Firefighters are conducting small “burnout” operations off a prepared bulldozer line in order to keep the fire inside those fire lines. The Burro Fire also grew yesterday just below the Colorado Trail, near Grindstone Lake.

The large smoke plume that was visible from Dolores, Rico, Durango and Bayfield on Thursday was from the 416 Fire, which is also burning on the San Juan National Forest, north of Durango. The 416 fire grew over 4,000 acres yesterday.

A Red Flag Warning has been issued again for today. This means conditions are right for fires to grow rapidly. High temperatures, low humidity, dry fuels and gusty winds are expected because of an approaching weather system. Fire restrictions remain in effect on the National Forest and in Montezuma and Dolores counties. As the 4th of July approaches, please remember that no open fires, and no fireworks, are allowed on any of your public lands in southwest Colorado.

Information regarding the fires and the closures can be found on <https://inciweb.nwccg.gov/>. Additional information regarding the 416 fire can be found on Facebook (@416 Fire. Closure information can also be found on the San Juan National Forest Facebook, Twitter feed (#SanJuanNF) or webpage <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/sanjuan/home>.

The ongoing fires and firefighting operations, both on the Burro and the adjacent 416 Fire, is why Forest Service roads and trails around those two fires remain closed.

Please respect closure barriers on roads and trails in the Burro and 416 fire areas. The Colorado Trail is closed from Molas Pass south to Junction Creek and the Hermosa Creek Wilderness is closed. McPhee Reservoir is open, both to shore fishing and boating. All highways, including Highway 550 is open and the Dolores River is accessible between Dolores and Rico

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