



# News Release

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Forest Service  
Lewis and Clark National Forest  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT FIRE STATUS

Rocky Mountain District Ranger Mike Muñoz reported that while the Cigarette Rock Fire has received measurable moisture during the last few days, Patrol Mountain Lookout has observed glowing and smoke in the area indicating that the fire is not out. However, fire activity has diminished because of the moisture, and weather predictions call for cooler, wetter frontal passages during the next week. Related higher humidity should keep the fire activity minimal.

“A high relative humidity, over several days, coupled with precipitation is very effective in moistening the fine fuels and reducing fire behavior and potential,” said Muñoz. He continued, “Also, duration of precipitation is more important than the amount received for wetting fuels and affecting fire behavior in forested areas.”

It is possible that unburned islands of fuel or timber in the fire interior may still burn as the area dries out this fall. Smoke columns and glows in the sky may be seen as the fall progresses or until snow accumulates on the fire area. The fire will not be declared “out” until there is a heavy snow pack on it later this fall or winter.

For more information, call Forest Service staff in Choteau, (406) 466-5341 or in Augusta, (406) 562-3247.

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