



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

# News Release

Las Cruces District Office, New Mexico

June 7, 2020

For Additional Information

Uvas Fire Info Line, 575-525-4360

## Uvas Fire Update – June 7, 2020 – 8:00 pm

**Location:** Uvas Mountains on BLM Land, approximately 10 miles SSW of Hatch, NM and 18 miles N of Interstate 10 between Deming and Las Cruces, NM.

**Date detected:** June 6, 2020 at 3:41 pm

**Current size:** Estimated 628 acres

**Percent contained:** 10%

**Cause:** Lightning

**Vegetation:** Grass, brush and Pinon Juniper

**Summary:** The Uvas Fire was started by lightning from a thunderstorm that moved over the southern portion of New Mexico on the evening of June 5<sup>th</sup>. The fire was detected the next day, as smoke became very visible from Hatch and travelers along I-10, and I-25. An aerial reconnaissance flight was conducted as BLM fire engines mobilized to the area.

Initially, during the first burning period, the fire was burning along the top of the mountain range at an elevation of 6500 ft., surrounded by steep, rugged terrain.

**Resources:** 4 Engines staffed with 11 firefighters and three overhead personnel for a total of 14 assigned personnel.

**Today:** The fire exhibited increased fire behavior today, due to a combination of hot, dry weather, steady winds and vegetation across the landscape, resulting in an additional growth of 500+ acres. Due to today's weather conditions, increased fire behavior carried the fire across slopes, into ravines and over rough and rugged terrain. Firefighters did not conduct any burnout operations, instead, they focused their efforts on holding the northwestern edge of the fire in order to minimize its spread towards the Las Uvas Mountains Wilderness Area. The added growth of the fire did result in increased smoke emissions, however light and steady winds aided in dispersing the smoke. Smoke is expected to be visible from Hatch, Las Cruces and surrounding areas, as well as I-10 and I-25 over the next few days.

**Firefighter and public safety remain the top priority on the Uvas Fire.**

For further information, please visit or call the following:

- NMFIREINFO at <https://nmfireinfo.com/>
- Uvas Fire Information phone line: 575-525-4360

-BLM-

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In fiscal year 2018, the diverse activities authorized on BLM-managed lands generated \$105 billion in economic output across the country. This economic activity supported 471,000 jobs and contributed substantial revenue to the U.S. Treasury and state governments, mostly through royalties on minerals.