

## Cameron Peak Fire Update #2 From Brad Abbott, Executive Director

The Cameron Peak fire reached 20,118 acres Monday morning (8/24), or about 31 square miles, and remains 0% contained. The fire remained active on Sunday due to record hot, dry, and windy conditions.

Firefighters on Monday plan to focus on structure protection, indirect suppression activities and on preparing for a controlled burn along Colorado 14 to the Rawah Divide. The fire is expected to grow on all sides Monday because of the wind and terrain, and is expected to continue to spread along Long Draw Road and toward Rocky Mountain National Park, which has closed some areas because of the blaze.

The fire started Aug. 13 and the cause is unknown. About 722 people are working the fire. Structure protection efforts will continue throughout the area as crews continue to assess new strategies to slow the spread of the fire. Weather for today will continue to be sunny, hot, and dry. Temperatures will be in the upper 70s to lower 80s with northwest winds of 5 - 10 mph. Relative humidity will be higher at 12-18%. Chances for thunderstorms and scattered rain showers will increase throughout this week.

### What does that mean for Sky Ranch?

The fire started about 12 miles west of Sky Ranch and has been growing on all sides. The fire is still quite a ways from Sky Ranch but the prevailing winds are moving the fire towards the camp and there is not a whole lot to stop the fire as the area is mostly wilderness covered with beetle kill trees that are further fuel for the fire. As a result, all roads accessing Sky Ranch are closed and the area evacuated. The Pingree Park road is a fire break. We are on the inside of that line, in the direction of the fire. **That does not mean we are not important in the fire plan**, but the location of Sky Ranch – totally encircled by wilderness full of beetle kill forest – does not make the camp an idyllic site to safely establish a fire line. **For Sky Ranch, the safest tactic for fire crews is structure protection.**

Last Thursday, three of our staff were escorted up to Sky Ranch. I met with the area crew chief and we prioritized structure protection of all buildings at camp. We are making the use of our shower house and showers in Ruth cabin available to the fire crews. **They will aggressively protect structures at Sky Ranch as the fire comes closer.** We were also able to evacuate a few vehicles and some personal property.

I am thankful for the outpouring of support from people all over the country wanting to help. I am grateful for the persistence of fire crews who are defending the places we hold dear and sacred while during a Covid crisis. As the fires spread throughout Colorado and the west, we are not alone. I ask you to please pray for **all** those affected by fire and those currently fighting to protect the structures (like Sky Ranch) left behind.

For the most current information, click on the link <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6964/> or on Facebook at [https://www.facebook.com/CameronPeakFire/?tn-str=k\\*F](https://www.facebook.com/CameronPeakFire/?tn-str=k*F).

