

N E W S



YARD OF THE WEEK

Hidden away in Island Acres subdivision is the home of Deena and Dan Buffington at 215 Park Dr. Top of the World Garden Club has chosen it for Yard of the Week for August 16-23. A large blue spruce enhances the various flower beds each with its own theme. Hanging baskets outline the home and garage along with a well manicured lawn. A front swing encourages you to sit and enjoy their yard.

GUNNISON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION PRELIMINARY AGENDA: FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 2018

8:45 a.m.

- **Call to order; determine quorum**
- **Approval of Minutes**
- **Unscheduled citizens:** A brief period in which the public is invited to make general comments or ask questions of the Commission or Planning Staff about items which are not scheduled on the day's agenda.

9:00 a.m.

Alpha Mechanical Solutions, LLC, public hearing, request to renovate the existing 6,600 square foot, vacant, former Trough restaurant, to include:

- Add a 2,613 square foot second floor, within the existing building
- Add a future 3,242 square foot addition to the east side of the existing building
- Fence/Screen the existing parking area
- + 75% of the building used for warehouse/commercial office
- + 25% of the building used for light industrial manufacturing

The site is located at 37610 W. Highway 50, approximately 1 mile west of the City of Gunnison, south of Highway 50, bounded by Shavano Drive on the west and south, legally described as .92-acres in the NE1/4NW1/4 Section 10, Township 49 North, Range 1 West, NMPM

LUC-18-00025

10:00 a.m.

Golden Eagle Trash Service LLC, continued public hearing, request for a commercial storage yard for refuse trucks, recycle containers and 3-bay shop building, with existing residence, located at 690 CR 18, legally described as a parcel in the NW1/4SW1/4 Section 3, Township 49 North, Range 1 West, NMPM, on 40-acres

LUC-18-00017

Noon

**Lunch
1:00 p.m.**

Nine Mile Ranches Subdivision Resubdivision, work session, request to resubdivide Nine Mile Ranches Subdivision; 38-acres into four single-family lots, Lot R1 5.0-acres, Lot R2 11.87-acres, with existing residence; Lot R3 9.83-acres; Lot R4 9.86-acres. The new residences will be served by well and septic. The property is located east of Highway 149, within the E1/2SE1/4 Section 22, Township 48 North, Range 2 West, N.M.P.M.

LUC 16-00027

1:30 p.m.

Staff, proposed Land Use Resolution amendments

ADJOURN

The applications can be viewed on gunnisoncounty.org,
link to <http://204.132.78.100/citizenaccess/>

- Public access
- Projects
- Application #
- LUC-18-00017
- LUC-18-00025
- LUC-18-00027
- Attachments

INDICTMENTS RETURNED ON TITLE INSURANCE INVESTIGATION

On June 7, 2018, the state grand jury in Denver returned a 14-count indictment charging Elizabeth Williams and Michelle Hernandez, who were the owners of two companies, Williams Title Guaranty and Escrow and Foresight Title. Williams and Hernandez are accused of the theft of \$733,000 of funds that should have been placed in trust for their policyholders.

What began as an investigation by the Colorado Division of Insurance (DOI), part of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), grew to include other State departments and will be prosecuted by the Colorado Attorney General's Office.

The DOI began investigating these title insurance companies in the spring of 2016 and revoked the licenses of the two principles, Williams and Hernandez, in September 2017. As part of the investigation, the DOI discovered alleged unemployment benefits fraud and various tax irregularities, prompting the Division to notify the State's Department of Labor and Employment and the Department of Revenue. As part of the DOI's actions, consumers who were impacted recovered their losses from Alliant National Title Insurance Company, which stepped in to help consumers.

"Trouble pops up in all professions from time to time, and insurance is no different," said Interim Insurance Commissioner Michael Conway. "Yet thanks to our investigative team, not only were we able to stop these people in the world of title insurance, but we built a solid case of facts and information that the other departments and the Attorney General's office could pursue to get these indictments returned."

The case is scheduled for a hearing in Denver district court this month.

FISHING IS FUN GRANTS AWARDED FOR EIGHT COLORADO ANGLING PROJECTS

Colorado Parks and Wildlife has awarded \$400,000 to eight Fishing is Fun projects, all geared to improve angling opportunities in the state of Colorado. The approved projects include improved angler access, habitat improvement, new piers and new ponds.

"Colorado has world-class fisheries and angling opportunities, and maintaining and increasing access to those resources is so important," said Bob Broscheid, director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife. "Fishing Is Fun is a powerful program to improve angling access for residents and visitors alike, leveraging angler dollars to assist in providing additional

opportunities.”

MEEKER SIGNAGE PROJECT

Jim Guthrie, the Fishing is Fun Program Coordinator, cited the Meeker signage project as a good example of the impact grants can have.

“This project is on a 40-mile stretch of the White River where there is a variety of public land ownership,” Guthrie said. “Some is county-owned, some is Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, some belongs to Colorado Parks and Wildlife. But people don’t realize all the opportunities to fish here. Where are they? How many spots are there? How far upstream can I go before I’m on somebody’s private property? New signs and education kiosks will spotlight this access that the public already owns. It’s a low-cost way to advertise to anglers and visitors that there are some great public access fishing spots nearby.”

CIRCLE PARK POND PROJECT

CPW is partnering with the Eastern Rio Blanco Recreation and Park District, the Town of Meeker and the White River Electric Association to construct a recreational trout-fishing pond at Circle Park in Meeker.

According to Area Wildlife Manager Bill de Vergie, the development of this fishing pond has been discussed for many years, but due to the complex nature of a project with multiple entities involved, it had not been accomplished. Now, with all the parties at the table, the project should be accomplished before the end of the year.

“There’s good fishing there along a limited section of the White River,” de Vergie said, “but there’s steep banks and fast-flowing water. So, it’s not ideal for kids. By creating this pond, we’ll have a place where kids can ride their bikes to and families can have fun together. There will be a walking trail around it and signs about the kinds of wildlife you might see nearby.”

A 2013 economic study found that angling contributes more than \$1.9 billion annually to the Colorado economy through direct and secondary expenditures, and supports over 16,000 jobs statewide.

Since 1987, the Fishing Is Fun program has supported more than 300 angling improvement projects of various sizes across the state, from the Eastern Plains and the West Slope to the major metropolitan areas along the Front Range. Fishing Is Fun funding comes from the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program. Matching funds are required, and the eight projects approved in 2018 included more than \$488,000 in local support.

Additional Fishing is Fun program details and requirements can be found at <http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/FishingIsFunProgram.aspx>.

FISHING IS FUN PROJECTS AWARDED IN 2018 INCLUDE:

- Town of Elizabeth
Evans Pond Aerators
\$2,700
- City of Loveland
Willow Bend fishing pier and access trail
\$30,000
- Meeker Chamber of Commerce
Signage, kiosks and maps for White River public access
\$32,700
- Town of Berthoud
Roberts Lake fishing pier, habitat improvement
\$18,750
- Town of Akron
New fishing pond - Akron Pond
\$69,000
- Town of Minturn
ADA and angler access to Eagle River
\$30,000
- East Rio Blanco Parks and Recreation -- Meeker
New fishing pond – Circle Park Pond
\$100,000
- Moffat County -- Craig
Access trails, boat ramp, pond improvement – Loudy-Simpson Park

BULL DRAW FIRE UPDATE

AUGUST 14, 2018 9:00 a.m.

MINNESOTA INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM TYPE 2 BLUE TEAM
BRIAN PISAREK, INCIDENT COMMANDER

BULL DRAW FIRE STATISTICS:

START DATE: July 29, 2018
LOCATION: 12 miles northwest of Nucla, CO
SIZE: 25,190 acres
PERCENT CONTAINED: 19%
TOTAL PERSONNEL: 380
CAUSE: Lightning

WEATHER: Storms passed through yesterday afternoon bringing with them 1/10 to 1/3 of an inch of rain. The rain only fell along the Northeastern side of the fire. There was not enough rain to impact the fire's spread. Today, there are still storm cells surrounding areas of the fire. They continue to bring gusty and erratic outflow winds, along with active lightning. Local winds over the fire are down slope, down valley this morning (winds will follow the terrain, down into the lower elevations). Wind will shift directions this afternoon, coming from the north/ northwest at 5-10mph, with gusts up to 15mph. Temperatures remain around mid-80s on the ridge tops and low 90s in the valley. With the monsoon moisture and storm cells present, the relative humidity will be 17-22%.

CURRENT SITUATION: Since our last morning update, the fire has grown 3,410 acres. Due to afternoon storm cells and gusty winds, fire made two main pushes to the northwest and southern edge of the fire. In the northwest fire grew around the Campbell Point/ Coyote Basin area. In the southern area of the fire continued to push into the 2004 Campbell fire scar. Engines and crews are working around the Campbell Point homes to reduce the amount of heat in that area. On the northeastern edge of the fire, crews are felling hazard trees and preparing the Divide Road for burnout operations later in the week. The southern edge of the fire has two different operations. The first operation is utilizing hand crews and dozers to

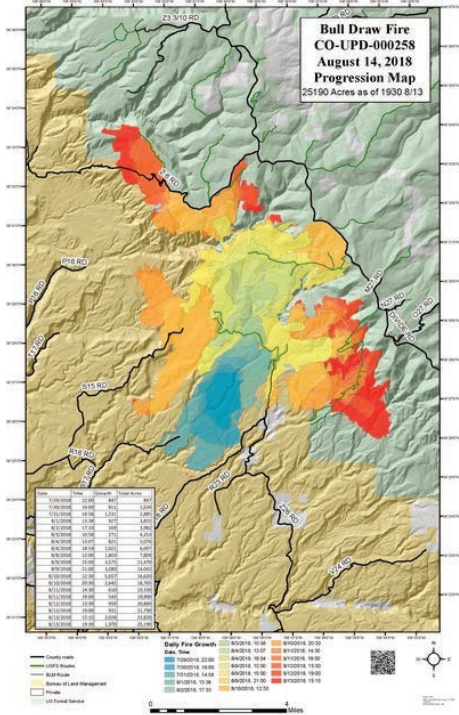
construct direct fireline connecting to the old 2004 Campbell Fire scar. The second operation is utilizing hand crews and dozers to construct contingency fire line around the southern area due to values at risk. The western edge of the fire has not gained significant acreage and continues to smolder around natural barriers. This edge of the fire is unstaffed allowing resources to be utilized on higher priority areas.

Smoke from the western states, and various fires around the state of Colorado will continue to impact this area.

CLOSURES AND EVACUATIONS: A 17-mile section of the Divide Road remains closed. The closure is from the junction of "Brushy Ridge" National Forest Service Road (NFSR) #408, and the Divide Road NFSR #402, to the "Windy Point" junction NFSR #600 Road and the Divide Road #NFS 402. For questions concerning this closure please call the Grand Valley Ranger District at 970-242-8211.

There are closures in place for BLM and US Forest Service areas affected by the Bull Draw Fire. Closures include BLM roads, trails and lands, National Forest System roads and trails, and some county roads. The public's patience and understanding is greatly appreciated with these closures. For a map of current BLM and National Forest closure areas, go to <https://bit.ly/2vSLNLe>

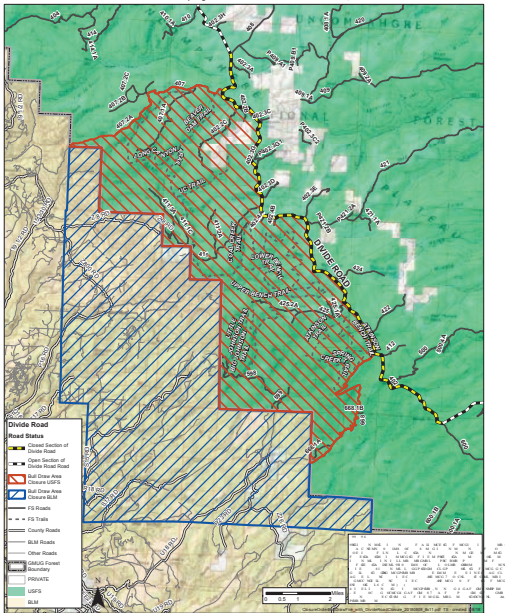
To sign up for emergency and evacuation notifications in Montrose County go to CodeRed at <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BF7ED953CC69>. To sign your cell phone up for emergency alerts in Mesa



Bull Draw Fire Emergency Closure Orders

USDA - FS - Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests
Grand Valley Ranger District - Order: GMUG-2018-11 and Order: GMUG-2018-12
USDI - BLM - Uncompahgre Field Office - Order: CO5065-18-02, amended

8/9/2018



County

visit

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736721759#/login>

PUBLIC HEALTH INFO: Periods of moderate to heavy smoke conditions are now found in the area. For a detailed daily air quality summary for all areas of Colorado, visit: https://www.colorado.gov/airquality/colorado_summary.aspx

INFORMATION CENTER: 970-578-0213 (hours of operation: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.)

For recorded info on area wildfires:

970-240-1070 (BLM Southwest Colorado Fire and Aviation Management Unit Information Line)

970-874-6602 (GMUG Fire Information) which includes information on Forest Service road closures

MEDIA INFORMATION LINE: 720-593-9939 Website:

<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6059>

Email:

2018.BullDrawFire@firenet.gov

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BullDrawFire/>

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: OWL CREEK ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Work has commenced on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Owl Creek Road Improvement Project. Overall, there has been great public support and enthusiasm for the work, but recently the project contractor has begun expressing concerns over public safety due to unsafe driving in the project area. A primary priority of work for the GMUG is the safety of both the public and those who work for us. It is with this in mind that we reiterate the need for all those in the area to slow down and drive safely.

Work for the project is scheduled until winter snowfall makes the area inaccessible. This means that heavy equipment such as motor graders, dump trucks, rollers, excavators and water trucks will be operating in the area into the foreseeable future. Many of these pieces of equipment are 1.5 to 2 times the size of the average passenger vehicles and lack the ability to quick maneuver in tight spaces. With much of the project's work taking place around Owl Creek Road's narrow and blind turn areas, excessive speed and a lack of situational awareness can lead to accidental collisions that will inflict far more damage on passenger vehicles along with a high probability for serious bodily injury while causing little to no damage to the equipment.

While safety measures have been put into place by construction crews it is your responsibility to drive safely. The GMUG encourages everyone to keep their safety along with the safety of their passengers and other travelers in mind when travelling on National Forest System lands.

Thank you for your patience and understanding on this matter and always drive to arrive.

For more information on National Forest lands driving please visit: <https://www.fs.fed.us/visit/know-before-you-go/driving>

NEWS