



**U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service
Manti-La Sal National Forest
Monticello Ranger District**

Monticello Ranger District Closure Order

PROHIBITIONS

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50 (a) and (b), the following are prohibited on the National Forest System (NFS) lands, roads, and trails in the Monticello Ranger District, Manti-La Sal National Forest, described below and shown on the attached map incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A (the "Described Area, Roads, and Trails"):

1. Entering or being in an area. 36 CFR § 261.52(e)
2. Being on the Road 36 CFR § 261.54(e)
3. Being on a Trail. 36 CFR § 261.55(a)

EXEMPTIONS

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with Forest Service Permit No. FS-7700-48 (Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order), specifically exempting them from this Order or a written determination by a Forest Service authorized officer that a permit is not required under 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e)(1) or (2).
2. Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting resource in the performance of an official duty.
3. Those with Special Use and Range Permits who have coordinated entry with the incident staff and have a written letter signed by the appropriate Line Officer (this includes letters issued for the Babylon Fire Closure Order 04-10-26-05-01)

DESCRIBED AREA/ROADS/TRAILS

The Described Area for closure includes the entirety of Forest Service lands on the Monticello Ranger District on the Manti-La Sal National Forest within San Juan County, Utah.

Order Number: # 04-10-26-05-02

Described Roads and Trails

All roads and trails within the Closure area described above.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Order is to protect public health and safety during active wildfire and burning operations, and to prevent human caused ignitions.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order shall be in effect from June 30, 2026, at 1200 through August 31, 2026, at 0001, unless rescinded.
2. A map identifying the Described Area, Roads, and Trails is attached and made part of this Order as Exhibit A. For a digital version of this Order and Exhibit A, go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r04/manti-lasal/alerts>
3. Unless otherwise expressly defined in this Order, the terms used in this Order are defined by the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture, 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299. If there are terms in this Order that are not expressly defined in the Order or 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299, their meaning shall be determined by their plain language definitions.
4. A violation of the above prohibitions is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 U.S.C. § 551; 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559, 3571, and 3581.
5. Contact the Monticello Ranger District in Monticello, Utah, 435-636-3340, or the Manti-La Sal National Forest Supervisor's Office in Price, Utah, (435) 636-3561, for more information about this Order.
6. This Order supersedes any previous Orders prohibiting the same or similar acts in the Described Area.

Signed and issued on 6/30/2026.



Digitally signed by BARBARA VAN
ALSTINE
Date: 2026.06.30 10:34:16 -06'00'

Barbara Van Alstine
Forest Supervisor
Manti-La Sal National Forest



BABYLON FIRE UPDATE

Wednesday, July 01, 2026, at 8:00 am

RED FLAG WARNING

Contact Fire Information: (435) 677-1958, Email: 2026.babylon@firenet.gov

<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/utmlf-babylon>

<https://www.facebook.com/mantilasalnationalforest>

Fire Statistics:

Start Date: June 26, 2026

Cause: Undetermined

Size: 70,735 acres

Containment: 0%

Structures Lost: 4

Location: 25 miles SW of Monticello, UT

Resources Assigned:

Total Personnel: 164

Crews: 3

Helicopters: 6

Engines: 8

Water Tenders:

Current Situation:

On Tuesday, fire crews continued to work on the southern portion of the fire perimeter, constructing and improving the heel of the fire using direct extinguishment strategies. Direct extinguishment strategy allows firefighters to secure the perimeter while constructing fireline directly along the fire's edge. This suppression strategy, also known as "keeping one foot in the black" provide a safe anchor point by removing fuel directly along the fire's edge during suppression efforts.

Today, firefighters will utilize natural barriers and areas of reduced vegetation to reduce the fire's spread on the western perimeter. However, with wind gusts up to 20 mph and single-digit relative humidity forecast across the fire area, fire activity is expected to increase in the Peavine and Dark Canyon drainages. Firefighters with wildland engine support will continue to provide structure protection in the Gooseberry area as they secure the fire area around the structures. Fire managers will continue to look for areas of opportunity to utilize indirect confinement strategies and natural barriers to slow the spread of the fire to the north towards Bridger Jack Road and County Road 211.

Community Meeting:

Great Basin Team 2 and local agency representatives will hold a community meeting to provide residents information and an overview of the fire. For those unable to attend in person, it will also be streamed live on Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/mantilasalnationalforest>

WHERE: Utah State University Blanding Arts & Events Center (BAEC) 576 W 200 S, Blanding, UT 84511

WHEN: Thursday, July 02, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

Weather and Fire Behavior:

A Red Flag Warning remains in effect for the fire area from noon to 8:00 pm today for gusty winds, low relative humidity and dry fuels. Gusty southwest winds on Wednesday afternoon are expected to push smoke from the Babylon Fire across the region. As the fire grows eastward, smoke is expected to increase significantly overnight within the Monticello area, with air quality potentially reaching very unhealthy or hazardous levels.

Evacuations and Closures: Closure order (#04-10-26-05-02) closing all Forest Service lands, roads, and trails within the Monticello Ranger District of the Manti-La Sal National Forest (San Juan County, Utah) is in effect as of June 30, 2026, at

12:00 PM. This closure is necessary to protect public health and safety during active wildfire operations.

Canyonlands National Park has temporarily closed The Needles District until further notice due to the Babylon Fire. The Babylon Fire is not currently burning within Canyonlands National Park.

The closures above and future updates can be found on the Babylon Inciweb page:

<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/utmlf-babylon>

Great Basin Incident Management Team #2

For more information on this and other fires, visit <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/>.



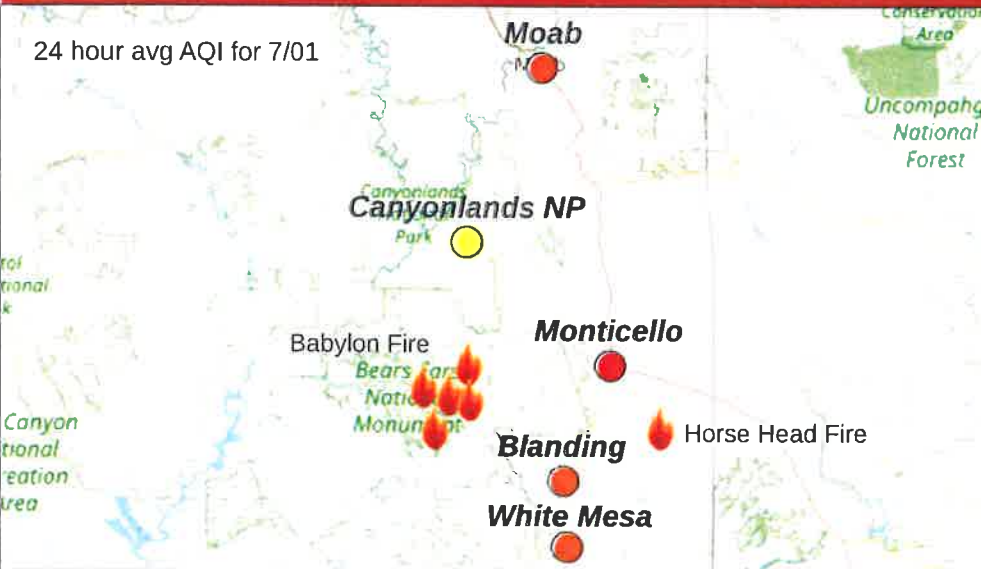
SMOKE OUTLOOK

SE Utah – Babylon, Horse Head

7/01 - 7/02

ARA: John Pendergrast, pendergrast01@gmail.com, and Nathan Santo Domingo (t), nathan.santodomingo@dnr.wa.gov
 Issued: 07:49 MDT 7/01/26
 Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program

LOCAL ADVISORY: Red Flag Warning ([more info](#))



FIRE

The **Babylon** fire is currently estimated at 70,734 acres and is 0% contained. Fire activity for the **Babylon** fire is expected to remain high. The **Horse Head** fire is currently estimated at 519 acres and is 70% contained. Fire activity for the **Horse Head** fire is expected to decrease.

SMOKE

Gusty southwest winds are expected to pick up once again Wednesday afternoon. This will send smoke from the **Babylon** Fire toward Moab, with UNHEALTHY air quality expected in the afternoon. Air quality around Moab will improve by the evening. To the south, Blanding and White Mesa will see GOOD air quality during the day, but as smoke settles overnight, the air quality index is expected to increase to at least UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS. The area of greatest concern will be Monticello. As the fire grows to the east, expect smoke to increase overnight, potentially to VERY UNHEALTHY or HAZARDOUS levels.

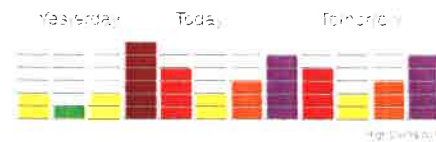
SPECIAL STATEMENT

A Red Flag Warning is in effect from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM Wednesday. There is also a Fire Weather Watch in effect Thursday afternoon and evening.

Moab Smoke may be UNHEALTHY at times in the afternoon but should quickly improve by the evening.



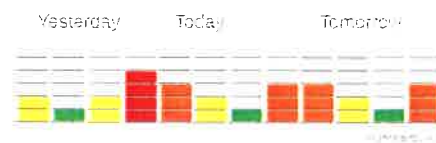
Monticello Smoke will increase overnight and may briefly reach HAZARDOUS levels, but air quality will improve in the afternoon.



Blanding Smoke will improve during the day but increase late in the evening as smoke settles.



White Mesa Smoke will improve during the day but increase again overnight as smoke settles.



Canyonlands NP Smoke will increase mid-morning but is expected to decrease throughout the rest of the day.



AIR QUALITY INDEX	ACTIONS TO PROTECT YOURSELF	LEARN MORE
Hazardous (H)	Everyone should avoid any outdoor activity	
Very Unhealthy (VU)	Everyone should avoid all physical outdoor activity	
Unhealthy (U)	People within Sensitive Groups should avoid all physical activity	
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG)	People within Sensitive Groups should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion	
Moderate (M)	Unusually sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged or heavy exertion	
Good (G)	None	

VIEW ONLINE FOR MORE INFORMATION <https://www.wildlandfiresmoke.net>

Disclaimer: This forecast is based on fine particulates only; ozone is not included. Forecasts may be wrong; use at own risk. Use caution as conditions can change quickly. See your health professional as needed. Smoke sensitive groups should take appropriate precautions.

