

STATE OF COLORADO

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John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

D 2017-024

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the Deep Creek Fire in Routt County

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to the Colorado Constitution, Article IV, Section 2, and pursuant to the relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, I, Donna Lynne, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order declaring a state of disaster emergency due to the Deep Creek Fire and making resources available for response activities.

I. Background and Purpose

The Governor is responsible for meeting the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters. The Colorado Disaster Emergency Act defines a disaster as “the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural cause or cause of human origin, including but not limited to ... fire” C.R.S § 24-33.5-703(3).

Late in the morning of September 4, 2017, a fire was reported in Routt County, eight miles northwest of Hayden. The fire was named the Deep Creek Fire. A pre-evacuation notice was issued to residents of the Deep Creek Community, but fire crews were able to construct a line that prevented the fire from entering the community. As of September 8, 2017, the fire grew to 3,800 acres. The fire impacted a mix of private land and land under the control of the federal Bureau of Land Management and threatened habitat of the endangered Greater Sage Grouse.

At approximately 5:45 pm on September 8, 2017, Governor Hickenlooper verbally declared a disaster emergency for wildland fire in Routt County.

II. Declarations and Directives

- A. The Deep Creek Fire and associated impacts constitute a disaster emergency under C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.* This Executive Order memorializes all verbal orders that Governor Hickenlooper issued in regard to this Order and such verbal orders shall have the full force and effect of law as if they were contained within this Executive Order.
- B. Due to the current insufficiency of funds necessary to pay for fire suppression efforts related to the Deep Creek Fire in the Disaster Emergency Fund and the Emergency Fire Fund, I order the transfer of \$2,250,000 from the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund into the Disaster Emergency Fund pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-706(4)(b). I further encumber \$2,250,000 in the Disaster Emergency Fund to pay for the wildland fire suppression and response efforts related to the Deep Creek Fire since September 4, 2017.
- C. Further, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-705.4(5), I hereby authorize and direct the Acting Director of the Office of Emergency Management to allocate the funding to the appropriate government agencies and non-profit organizations and execute awards, purchase orders, or other mechanisms to effect the allocation of the funds. These funds shall remain available for this purpose until 60 months from the date of this order, and any unexpended funds shall remain in the Disaster Emergency Fund.
- D. I hereby authorize and direct the Division of Fire Prevention and Control to coordinate application to the federal government for funds available for reimbursement and to coordinate application for any other funds available related to this disaster emergency.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire 30 days from September 8, 2017, unless extended further by Executive Order, except that the funds described in paragraph II C above shall remain available for the described purposes for 60 months from the date of this Executive Order.



GIVEN under my hand and
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado this twentieth day of
October, 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna Lynne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Donna Lynne
Lieutenant Governor, acting on
behalf of the State while Governor
John W. Hickenlooper is absent
from the State