



For Immediate Release: June 1, 2012, 8:00 a.m.

Whitewater-Baldy Complex Update

Southwest Area Type 1 Incident Management Team
Incident Commander: Tony Sciacca



Media Line: 575-533-6901

Email: whitewaterfire@gmail.com

Website: <http://inciweb.org/incident/2870/>

Flickr (photos and maps): <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gilaforest>

Twitter: www.twitter.com/SWIMT1 and www.twitter.com/gilaforestPAO

Fire Facts:

Date Started: 05/16/2012

Location: Approximately 15 miles E of Glenwood, NM

Cause: Lightning

Size: 216,650 acres

Percent Contained: 10

Number of Personnel: 1,239 personnel including
15 hotshot crews, 12 hand crews

Equipment: 60 Engines, 27 Water Tenders, 7 Dozers

Aircraft: 10 Helicopters

Injuries to Date: Six

New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez visited the Incident Command Post in Reserve, New Mexico May 31st. The Governor was provided an informational briefing from the Incident Commander and members of the operational staff.

Increased humidity aided firefighter efforts yesterday. Structure protection continues in the evacuated communities of Mogollon and Willow Creek, as well as isolated ranches to reinforce fire barriers. Burnout operations will continue in areas along the fire boundary. With a chance of thunderstorms and dry lightning over the Black Hills area, resources are on hand ready to respond to any new starts that may occur.

A public meeting will be held in Glenwood at the Community Center on June 1, at 6:00 PM to provide information to anyone interested.

Smoke from the fire continues to impact communities around the fire. Periods of intense smoke will be observed and continue to impact air quality. Sensitive groups (those with asthma, lung or heart disease, children, older adults and pregnant women) should consider leaving those areas of smoke induced low air quality. Low lying areas close to ongoing fire activity may experience periods with visibility of 1.5 – 2.5 miles, which is indicative of air that is unhealthy for all groups. If heavy smoke is present, then outdoor activities should be minimized where possible and caution observed when driving in reduced visibility. For additional information go to: <http://inciweb.org/incident/article/2870/14038/>.

Closures are in effect in several areas; please go to the Gila National Forest website at www.fs.usda.gov/gila for current information, or contact the Forest directly at 575-388-8201.

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