



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Fire Information 575-536-3382
575-536-3285

SILVER FIRE 5% CONTAINED

SAN LORENZO, NM – Favorable weather conditions yesterday made it possible for firefighters to make headway in the fight against the Silver Fire. The fire is now five percent contained along NM State Highway 152. Total acreage stands at 21,800.

Weather forecasts for the fire area call for an increase in temperature, an increase in wind speed and a decrease in humidity. If these forecasts hold, fire activity could increase as a result of these unfavorable conditions.

There are now 621 firefighters working the fire including five helicopters, ten 20-person hotshot crews, five 20-person hand crews, sixteen engines, two dozers and eleven water tenders.

Several agencies are assisting with the Silver Fire. They include the Grant and Sierra County Sheriff's Departments, NM State Police, Las Cruces BLM District, NM State Forestry and NM Department of Transportation. The daily public meeting will be held each morning at the Hillsboro Community Center at 10 a.m.

To ensure public safety, the Aldo Leopold Wilderness has been closed east of NM State Highway 152 from the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail #74 south to Reeds Peak. NM State Highway 152 from San Lorenzo to Hillsboro remains closed. The road closure is for east and westbound traffic from 35 miles east of Bayard at mile marker 16 to 10 miles west of Hillsboro at mile marker 40. Trail #79 and the Royal John Mine Road are also closed for public safety. For more information see <http://fs.usda.gov/gila> or www.nmroads.com.

Gila National Forest officials want to remind the general public that the forest is open except in the restricted fire area.

Silver Fire updates can be found on Inciweb at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3414>. For additional fire information visit the following websites: www.facebook.com/SilverFireNM, www.flickr.com/gilaforest, www.twitter.com/SilverFireNM.

NOTE TO EDITORS: FUTURE NEWS RELEASES WILL BE RELEASED ONLY AT 8 A.M.
UNLESS DICTATED BY CONDITIONS.

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