

GILA NATIONAL FOREST



FACT SHEET

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Miller Wildland Fire Update

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

The Miller Fire is at **9440 acres**, burning in remote, steep, and rugged terrain in the Gila Wilderness approximately 4.5 miles southwest of the Gila Cliff Dwellings. The remoteness of the Miller Fire along with windy conditions prevented firefighters from accessing the fire. A Type Three Incident Management Organization is now in place and hotshots, smokejumpers and local district firefighters are improving trails and constructing contingency fire lines to protect the Gila Cliff Dwellings and the Gila Hotsprings in the event fire approaches that area.

Detected on 4/28/2011 in the Gila Wilderness, 6 air miles southwest of the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument and two air miles northwest of Granny Mountain.

Fire Behavior: Fire behavior is moderate and smoke will be visible in the afternoon and settle into the low lying areas overnight. The Miller Fire is burning through grass understory and pine. Fire will be active today with warmer temperatures, lower humidity. Conditions are still very dry in the fire area.

Public Meetings: Two meetings will held to discuss the long term effects of the Miller Fire

- Thursday May 5, 2011 6:00pm at the Sapiello VFD
- Friday May 6, 2011 6:00pm at the Cliff Dwellings Visitors Center

Trail Closures: Trails 155, 159, 160 & 403 through the fire area have been closed for public safety. The public is also advised not to use Trailhead 160 to Little Creek or any surrounding trails due to the proximity of the fire.

Smoke is visible from Silver City, Cliff and surrounding areas this morning.

Cause: Human.

Fire and Smoking Restrictions

Stage I Fire Restrictions in effect on the Gila National Forest:

Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal, or wood stove, except within a developed recreation site, or improved site. The use of petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns or heating devices providing such devices meet the fire underwriter's specifications for safety is allowed. Persons using Forest Service designated campgrounds and/or picnic areas may have a campfire within a pre-constructed Forest Service fireplace of fire ring. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material

For more information about current fire activity on the Gila National Forest, contact the public information officer at 575-533-6231 (Reserve) or (575) 536-2250 (Mimbres) or visit the website at <http://fs.usda.gov/gila>.