



Miller Fire Information
Wilderness Ranger District
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Miller Wildland Fire Update

Friday, May 06, 2011

The Miller Fire reached 15,900 acres, burning in remote, steep and rugged terrain in the Gila Wilderness. Approximately 93 fire personnel are working to construct contingency fire lines, improve trails to use as holding lines, and begin preparation to protect the Gila Cliff Dwellings and Gila Hot Springs Community.

The Miller Fire was 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 is moderate with increased fire activity in the afternoons due to warmer temperatures. The fire is generally burning through grass understory and pine needles.

Public Meetings: A meeting will be held to discuss the ongoing plans and long term effects of the Miller Fire

- Friday May 6, 2011 6:00pm at the Cliff Dwellings Visitors Center (please bring your own lawn chair).

Campground Closures: The **Forks Campground** will be closed as fire crews utilize the area for the defense of the Gila Center and surrounding infrastructure including assessments and structure protection.

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 will continue to be visible from Silver City, Cliff, and surrounding areas throughout the day, with inversion causing smoke to settle in low lying areas overnight. Additionally, daytime warming will cause smoke to increase in the afternoons. As weather patterns change and winds shift many areas throughout the forest will see increased smoky conditions.

Cause: Human.

Fire and Smoking Restrictions

Stage I Fire Restrictions are 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 or 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 Wilderness Ranger District at (575) 536-2250 or visit the website at <http://fs.usda.gov/gila>.