



Miller Fire Information
Wilderness Ranger District
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Miller Wildland Fire Update

Saturday, May 07, 2011

The Miller Fire reached 22,100 acres, and continues to burn in remote, steep and rugged terrain in the Gila Wilderness. As the northeast side of the fire approaches the line that was cut in Little Creek, approximately 90 fire personnel are working to protect the Gila Cliff Dwellings and Gila Hot Springs Community, clearing brush around key areas, adding in a sprinkler system, and presetting hoses and water sources.

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 and higher winds. The fire is generally burning through grass understory and pine needles.

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

Advisory: Woody's Corral is open, but the trailhead (Trail 160) is closed and the public is advised not to park in the area overnight due to suppression operations in the area.

Trail Closures: Most of the trails in the fire area, west of New Mexico Highway 15, are now closed. In addition to the previously closed trails 155, 159, 160 & 403 through the fire, trails 813, 162, 789, 161, 158, and 177 are now closed.

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 increase 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>.