

Northern Rockies – Southwest Area Wildland Fire Management Team



FACT SHEET

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Miller Fire Information
Wilderness Ranger District
Office: (575) 536-2250

Miller Wildland Fire Update

Sunday, May 08, 2011

New Mexico Department of Transportation closed New Mexico Highway 15, at the intersection with New Mexico Highway 35, at 6:00 am Sunday May 8, 2011, 18 miles south of the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument. A Stage I Evacuation is in place for residents of Gila Hot Springs. Residents should be aware for the potential of the fire approaching in the near future and please be aware of the fire status.

Fire Size: 22,100 Acres

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, downed logs and pine needles with occasionally torching small groups of trees.

Campground Closures: The following campgrounds off New Mexico Highway 15 have been **closed: Upper and Lower Scorpion, Grapevine, Woodys Corral and TJ Corral.** The **Forks Campground** remains closed.

Trail Closures: Most of the trails in the fire area, west of New Mexico Highway 15, are now closed. This includes: 155, 159, 160, 403, 813, 162, 789, 161, 158, and 177.

Smoke will continue to be visible from Silver City, Cliff, and surrounding areas, especially as fire activity and smoke increases. The Gila River Drainages should expect to see elevated levels of smoke in the early mornings as smoke settles into the valley. Unhealthy conditions are expected in Gila Hot Springs and at the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument. Individuals with existing respiratory or heart conditions are encouraged to take appropriate precautions, as are the elderly or small children. Information about smoke and what individuals can do to protect themselves can be found at <http://nmfireinfo.wordpress.com/smoke-management/> Smoke monitors have placed in Cliff and at the Cliff Dwellings and the smoke levels can be found at <http://satguard.com/usfs/>, under Real Time Data.

The human caused 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 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 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