

June 2, 2012



Whitewater-Baldy Complex Community Update



Southwest Area Type 1 Incident Management Team
Incident Commander: Tony Sciacca

Fire Information: 575-533-6901, 575-533-6053 (Daily from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.)

Email: whitewaterfire@gmail.com

Website: <http://inciweb.org/incident/2870/>

Flickr (photos and maps): <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gilaforest>

Twitter: www.twitter.com/SWIMT1 and www.twitter.com/gilaforestPAO

Fire Facts:

Date Started: 05/16/2012

Cause: Lightning

Size: 227,000 acres

Percent Contained: 15

Number of Personnel: 1,257 personnel including
15 hotshot crews, 12 hand crews

Equipment: 64 Engines, 28 Water Tenders, 7 Dozers

Aircraft: 10 Helicopters

Firefighters made good progress yesterday on the northeastern portions of the fire. Patrols will monitor that section of the fire today. Crews monitored and mopped-up in Mogollon yesterday. Early today, resources will be rotating in and out of Mogollon. Residents should expect to see more traffic in the area.

Burnout operations occurred late yesterday on the northwest flanks of the fire. A night shift mopped-up until this morning and hot shot crews will continue to improve protection measures around the cabins.

Crews worked hard to improve the boundary in the eastern edge of the fire north of Prior Cabin. Additionally, burnout operations were completed around the Black Mountain Lookout Tower.

The extreme western portion of the fire will become highly visible with smoke columns possible. Fire behavior is expected to back down the mountain. Flames and smoke will likely be visible to the community of Glenwood. Additional fire vehicles will be patrolling the area monitoring fire behavior.

Because of the complexity of this fire, fire managers have brought in specialized resources. One of those resources includes heli-rappellers. Heli-rappellers are one of the aerial resources brought in during early stages of a remote fire, especially where there is no good landing zone. The "rappellers" will rappel from a helicopter into remote locations and extinguish fires or provide reconnaissance information. Check out this link to a short video of rappellers in action.

Smoke from the fire continues to impact communities around the fire. For additional information please go to: <http://inciweb.org/incident/article/2870/14038/>.

If you are planning to visit the forest this weekend, several closures and restrictions are in effect in several areas; please go to the Gila National Forest website at www.fs.usda.gov/gila for current information or contact the Forest directly at 575-388-8201.

