



Little Bear Fire June 10, 2012 – 10 p.m.

Wind, Low Humidity and High Temperature Challenge Firefighters Today

Start Time/Date	Monday, June 4, 2012
Location:	Smokey Bear Ranger District, Lincoln NF, including White Mountain Wilderness
Cause:	Lightning
Fuels:	Mixed conifer, ponderosa pine
Size:	approx. 26,904 acres
Containment:	0 %
Resources Committed:	Personnel: 429, crews: 8 Type 1, 1 Type 2; engines: 47; helicopters: 2 Type 1 2 Type 2, 1 Type 3; dozers : 10; water tenders: 7
Today's Weather:	90 degrees, relative humidity 10%, winds southwest 20 mph gusting to 30 mph
Structures destroyed:	35 (an accurate damage assessment has not been made yet)
Road Closures:	NM 532 (Ski Run Road) at mile marker 3, east and west; NM 48 from mile marker 8 to mile marker 13, north and south; NM 37 from mile marker 0 to mile marker 8, north and south; and NM 220 from mile marker 1 to mile marker 13, north and south.
Area Closures	The entire White Mountain Wilderness, and that portion of the Smokey Bear Ranger District south of NM 380 to the Mescalero Apache Reservation boundary

Summary: Strong winds kept aircraft grounded most of the day. Dozer crews were successful in construction of direct containment line on the northeastern flank. Crews held and improved containment lines along Crest Trail on the northwest side of the fire, however progress was slow. Some movement of the fire was observed north toward Nogal Canyon, and south toward Buck Mountain. A transition to lighter fuels on the northern front will make containment easier. The south end of the fire, near the ski area is the most challenging. Fire moved south across Forest Road 532. A plan is in place to extend a dozer line to contain this movement. Structure protection was in place around the ski area today. Residents of Upper Canyon were called by local law enforcement, and advised to be prepared for evacuation if it becomes necessary.

A community meeting will be conducted at 4:30 p.m. in the main gymnasium of the Ruidoso High School at 125 Warrior Road, to discuss status of the fire and firefighting activities. Another community meeting will be conducted at the same location at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 11. A community meeting will also be conducted at the fairgrounds in Capitan at 7:00 p.m. on Monday.

Evacuations: All campgrounds west of Bonito Lake; subdivisions of Villa Madonna, Enchanted Forest, Nogal Canyon (Forest Road 400, campground and summer homes), Angus, Sierra Vista, Sontara (1, 2 and 3), Copper Canyon, and Loma Grande; Eagle Lakes Campground, Eagle Creek summer homes, Ski Run Road (State Highway 532) at mile marker 3, State Highway 48 to Capitan, and State Highway 37 to Highway 380 and Ski Apache. This list may not be all inclusive.

The evacuation of Rancho Ruidoso has been lifted and NM220 has been opened to the airport.

Shelters: Ruidoso High School at 125 Warrior Road, and Trinity Baptist Church in Capitan. Pets and livestock may be taken to J Bar J Country Church in Ruidoso, or the fairgrounds in Capitan.

The Incident Management team is working with the State Emergency Operations Center and the Lincoln County Emergency Manager to assemble a damage assessment team. As soon as it is safe to enter the burned area, the number and condition of structures within the area will be determined. Those concerned about status of their property may contact Kathy with American Red Cross at 575-420-8954, and leave their contact information. This information will be passed on to the county Sheriff's office. Fire information is available at: 575-258-6900. Information on wildland fire smoke and your health can be found on the New

Mexico Department of Health's website at: http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/documents/Health_Effects_Smoke_06152010.pdf

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