



# NEWS RELEASE

## Apache–Sitgreaves National Forests

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**DATE: JUNE 24, 2008**  
**1:00 P.M.**

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### **HOT AIR WILDFIRE BURNS NORTH OF MORENCI, HIGHWAY 191 CLOSED**

Springerville, AZ...the Hot Air Wildfire is burning in Greenlee County on the Clifton Ranger District approximately 30 miles north of Morenci, AZ. The wildfire is located between Sheep Saddle and Rose Peak and has been active on both sides of Highway 191; acreage is estimated at 3,500 acres.

There are no structures or private property threatened by the Hot Air Wildfire at this time. Highway 191 is currently closed from Blue Vista on the north and mile post 207 on the south (approx. 30 miles south of Rose Peak) until further notice. Highway 78 through New Mexico is an alternate route for motorists.

The wildfire is burning in ponderosa pine, pinon and juniper in a remote and rugged area near Sheep Saddle. The wildfire has made some upslope runs with isolated and sustained canopy fires. Some torching and spotting has been observed. Wildfire behavior is expected to become increasingly extreme later in the week due to continuing dry weather conditions.

Resources on scene include four hot shot hand crews and six engines. Crews are constructing containment lines and conducting burn out operations. Fire managers are using aircraft to monitor, assess, and map the wildfire.

Forest visitors are encouraged to contact the Clifton Ranger District for more information at (928) 687-8600. Fire information can also be obtained by calling the 593 Joint Information Line at (928) 333-3412 or by visiting [www.593info.org](http://www.593info.org). Media contact number is (602) 601-8037.

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