

News Release

Southwest Area Type II Incident Management Team

For Immediate Release
Date: June 28, 2008
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Contact: Carrie Templin
928-339-4124

Weather Changes Affecting Wildfires on Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest

Springerville, AZ – Rain fell on portions of the Hot Air and Bear Mountain wildfires on Friday, moderating fire activity. Firefighters will watch the skies today as thunderstorms could challenge firefighting efforts.

The **Hot Air Wildfire** is located 39 miles southeast of Alpine. Most of the fire activity is in the northeast and southwest corners, although scattered rain showers on Friday slowed the spread of the fire. Highway 191 remains closed at Forest Road 25 on the north end. Please drive slowly, with headlights on, and watch for fire personnel and vehicles traveling through this area. On the south end, Highway 191 is closed at mile post 202 below Rose Peak. The Hot Air Fire has grown to 8,000 acres. Four crews, five engines and one helicopter are working the fire. There are currently a total of 156 people assigned to the Hot Air fire. Smoke continues to drift east and may be visible to residents around Glenwood and Reserve, New Mexico.

An area closure has been implemented, and the following trails are closed: Mud Springs Trail #49, and Bear Canyon Trail #46. Portions of Forest Roads 217-J and 217-I remain open. All roads and trails within the fire closure area are closed.

The **Bear Mountain Wildfire** is located 20 miles south of Alpine in the Blue Range Primitive Area. The fire is 1,200 acres in size. The fire size changed substantially after an aerial mapping flight. The Bear Mountain Wildfire received some rain on Friday, but continues to be active on the west, north and east sides of the fire. Smoke continues to be visible. There are no firefighters currently on the Bear Mountain Fire, however, the fire is being monitored from the air.

An area closure has been implemented for the Bear Mountain Fire, including all Forest Service land and trails within the vicinity of the Bear Mountain Fire. The following trails are closed: Trail 101, a portion of Trail 55, Trail 41, including the area north of the trails. Forest Roads 281 and 232 are open, however all areas south of Forest Roads 281 and 232 are closed.

Fire information can be obtained by calling the 593 Joint Information Line at (928) 333-3412 or by visiting www.593info.org.

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