Forest Service
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Wildfire Daily Updates

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Bankhead National Forest – Big Tree Wildfire, Sipsey Wilderness

Incident: Big Tree Wildfire

Released: 10/20/2015-Time: 9:00 a.m.

A 637-acre wildfire is burning in the Sipsey Wilderness of the Bankhead National Forest as of 5 p.m. on Oct. 19, 2015. Beginning Oct. 20, there will be a campfire restriction only in the Sipsey Wilderness. U.S. Forest Service fire personnel are taking immediate action to contain the fire that has temporarily closed five trails leading into the Sipsey Wilderness. The public living near the Sipsey Wilderness may see an increase in smoke and Forest Service personnel. Hikers planning to use trails in the Sipsey Wilderness and hunters in the Black Warrior Management Area are asked to check the Forest Service website, bulletin boards, Facebook and Twitter for a listing of open trails and status updates. The safety of the public and wildland firefighters is our number one priority.

Big Tree Wildfire website (http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/AL/BigTreeWildfire)

Quick Facts

- Wildland fire type: Wildland Fire (Wilderness)
- Cause: Law Enforcement Officers are currently investigating
- Reported: Oct. 16 to Bankhead District Dispatch at 4:14 p.m.
- Location: Northwest Alabama - Sipsey Wilderness and the Black Warrior Management Area (Lawrence County) in the Bankhead National Forest.
- Acres involved now: 637 acres as of 5 p.m. Oct. 19
- Equipment: Hand crews, leaf blowers and a Type 3 helicopter. No heavy equipment used.
- Personnel: 38 single resources from various states –Alabama, North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee. One Hotshot Crew (15 person) from Virginia and an Initial Attack Crew from Asheville, NC.
- Strategy: Hand crews and leaf blowers are used to have less impact and maintain wilderness value.
- Incident Command Post-Bankhead District Office, 1070 Highway 33, Double Springs, AL, Phone: 205-489-5111