


Forest Service

2946 Chestnut Street

Montgomery, AL 36017

 Web: www.fs.usda.gov/alabama

 Twitter: <https://twitter.com/nfinalabama>

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Wildfire Daily Updates

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Bankhead National Forest – Big Tree Wildfire, Sipsey Wilderness

Incident: Big Tree Wildfire
Released: 10/26/2015-Time: 9:30 a.m.

A 1938-acre wildfire continues to burn in the Sipsey Wilderness of the Bankhead National Forest as of **Oct. 26.** U.S. Forest Service fire personnel are taking immediate action to contain the fire that has temporarily closed 8 trails leading into the Sipsey Wilderness. **Due to the increased moisture we are receiving, today's strategy is to monitor the fire line.** The public living near the Sipsey Wilderness may see an increase in smoke and Forest Service personnel. Hikers planning to use 4 open 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) (<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 by hikers 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: 1938 acres as of Oct. 25
- Containment: 48%
- 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, Florida and Tennessee. One Hotshot Crew (15 person) from Virginia and an Initial Attack Crew (20 person) from Asheville, NC.
- Strategy: Hand crews, leaf blowers and burn out are used to have less impact and maintain wilderness characteristics.
- Incident Command Post-Bankhead District Office, 1070 Highway 33, Double Springs, AL, Phone: 205-489-5111