



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: 10/27/2015-Time: 9:00 a.m.

A 1938-acre wildfire continues to burn in the Sipsey Wilderness of the Bankhead National Forest as of Oct. 27. U.S. Forest Service fire personnel are taking immediate action to contain the fire that has temporarily closed numerous trails leading into the Sipsey Wilderness. **Due to the increased moisture we are receiving, today's strategy is to continue to monitor the fire line. We have released some of our resources and anticipate reopening some of our trails today.** Hikers planning to use the 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. 27
- Containment: 75%
- Equipment: Hand crews, leaf blowers and a Type 3 helicopter. No heavy equipment used.
- Personnel: 25 single resources from various states –Alabama, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Tennessee. One Hotshot Crew (14 person) from Virginia. **The Initial Attack Crew (20 person) from Asheville, NC is being released today**
- 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