



Notice to potential land purchasers

If you are planning to purchase privately owned land within the boundary of the Gila National Forest, you need to be very careful about the following items:

If the property you plan to purchase adjoins National Forest land, have the property lines surveyed, marked and recorded by a licensed surveyor before you buy. Know the boundaries of the land you are buying. There have been several cases of houses or other buildings constructed on National Forest land. If you build on the National Forest, you will have to move your structure.

Make sure the property you are buying has legal access by county or state road or across other private land. The Forest Service may not necessarily grant new private access roads over National Forest land just because it is public land. If access over National Forest land is in question, contact the Forest Service before you make any commitments.

If you buy and build, please be very careful with fire, particularly while burning trash or leaves. If your fire escapes and threatens nearby National Forest land, making it necessary for National Forest personnel to fight the fire, you may be billed for the costs, which could be very expensive.

Be "fire-wise". Look into ways you can help protect your new home from wildfire; for example, install a metal roof. Landscape your yard so it is open, with few or no shrubs or trees near the house.

National Forests are not like National Parks and State Parks. The Gila National Forest is a working forest. Timber on National Forest land next to your property may be harvested. National Forest lands are open to the public for a variety of uses such as hiking, camping, hunting, horseback riding, ATV and mountain bike riding. If you wish to deter trespassers, it is your responsibility to post your property lines.

Cattle may also be grazing on the National Forest next to your property. If you do not want cattle grazing on your property, it is your responsibility to fence them out. It is also your responsibility to keep your livestock (for example, horses) on your private land.

If you have any questions, please call Danny Montoya, 505-388-8372.

