



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Gila National Forest
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Dear Noncommercial Hiker or Backpacker,

Under CFR 251.50(e)1, the Gila National Forest has determined that a special use authorization is not required for non-commercial hikers and backpackers passing through the Gila National Forest on the Continental Divide Trail. Such users typically walk more than 5 miles (on average) between campsites each day and remove all of their trash and belongings with them when moving between campsites. Non-commercial through-hiking on the Continental Divide Trail has such nominal effects on National Forest System lands, resources, or programs, that it is not necessary to establish terms and conditions in a special use authorization for protection of NFS lands and resources, or to avoid conflict with NFS programs or operations.

Sincerely,

**CAMILLE
HOWES**

Camille Howes

Forest Supervisor, Gila National Forest

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