

**GILA
NATIONAL
FOREST**



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire and Smoking Restrictions Changed on Gila National Forest

(Silver City, NM – June 16, 2006) - Due to continued windy dry weather and increased fire activity on the Gila National Forest, fire restrictions have been increased. Stage II Fire and Smoking restrictions became effective as of 12:01 am on June 16 and prohibit the use of open campfires, and charcoal grills anywhere on the Forest except the Juniper, Piñon, and El Caso Campgrounds near Quemado Lake. Underwriter's approved petroleum fueled stoves and lanterns are still allowed. Smoking is prohibited except in enclosed vehicles, buildings, developed recreation sites, or while stopped and in a cleared area at least three feet in diameter. Except on the Quemado District, chainsaws and other equipment powered by an internal combustion engines will only be allowed between the hours of 9 pm and 10 am; and motor vehicles will not be allowed to operate off of National Forest System Roads, except when parking within 10 feet off of roadways in areas devoid of vegetation or when parking in developed campgrounds and trailheads. Using a welder or a torch with an open flame is also banned except on the Quemado Ranger District. The official order no. 06-251 can be viewed on the web at: <http://www2.srs.fs.fed.us/r3/gila/fire/forestclosure.asp>.

For more information about the current fire activity, on the Gila National Forest, contact the Information Office at 388-8245 or visit the website at www.fs.fed.us/r3/gila.

Information about all current federal and state land restrictions and closures in New Mexico and Arizona can be found by visiting the website:

http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/information/firerestrictions/restrictions_closures.htm

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