

NEWS RELEASE



USDA FOREST SERVICE
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests

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For Immediate Release

July 3, 2008

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Hot Air Fire Update **Greenlee County Fires**

Springerville AZ..... The **Hot Air Fire** is now estimated to be about 8300 acres as cooler weather accompanied by some rain moderated fire behavior. Highway 191 is open but trails within the fire area are closed including Trails 49 and 46. The most active portion of the fire is in the Engineer Springs area east of Sheep Saddle. This fire is only being monitored daily as no suppression activities are occurring.

The **Bear Mountain Fire** in the Blue Range Primitive Area is estimated at 2,300 acres today and is being monitored from the air. Only a small amount of smoke is visible. Trails in the vicinity of the fire are closed including trails 101, 55, and 41. Forest Roads 281(the Blue River Road) and 232 (the Pueblo Park Road) are open.

The **Paradise Fire** started on June 27th from a lightning strike. The fire is located 15 miles south of Alpine in the Blue Range Primitive Area. The fire is in Paradise Park, in the Thomas Fire area which burned in 2003. The fire is approximately 47 acres in size, burning in ground fuels. Very little smoke is visible so the fire is being monitored only.

There are no smoking or campfire restrictions in effect on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. As a reminder, fireworks are not allowed on the national forest. For current fire, health, or emergency management information in Navajo or Apache counties call "593" or "*593" if calling from a Cellular One phone or 928-333-3412 if calling from outside the local calling area. The web address is www.593info.org.

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