

News Release

**Southwest Area Type II Incident Management Team**

**For Immediate Release**  
**Date: June 29, 2008**  
12:00 p.m.

**Contact: Carrie Templin**  
928-339-4124  
(Disconnected Monday, June 30)

**Management of Hot Air Fire Returned to District**

Springerville, AZ – Both the Hot Air and Bear Mountain Wildfires continue to burn, however, fire growth slowed today. Firefighters will watch the skies today as thunderstorms could challenge firefighting efforts. The Southwest Area Type II Incident Management Team will transfer command of the Hot Air fire back to Rob Lever, District Fire Management Officer, Monday, June 30, 2008.

The **Hot Air Wildfire** is located 39 miles southeast of Alpine. Firefighters will concentrate their efforts along highway 191 northeast of Hagen trailhead and in northeast of the Rose Peak Lookout today. Fire rehabilitation work in the Sheep Saddle area is also a priority today. Highway 191 remains closed at Forest Road 25 on the north end, and at mile post 202 below Rose Peak, on the south end. Growth on the Hot Air Fire moderated only gaining 150 acres on Saturday. The fire size is now 8,150 acres. Three crews, four engines and one helicopter are working the fire. There are currently a total of 135 people assigned to the Hot Air fire. Smoke continues to drift east and may be visible to residents near Glenwood and Reserve, New Mexico. **For further information on the Hot Air Wildfire contact the Clifton Ranger District at (928) 687-8600.**

The area closure remains in effect. The following trails are closed: Mud Springs Trail #49, and Bear Canyon Trail #46. Portions of Forest Roads 217-J and 217-I remain open. All roads and trails within the fire closure area are closed.

The **Bear Mountain Wildfire** is located 20 miles south of Alpine in the Blue Range Primitive Area. The fire grew to 1,500 acres in size. Smoke continues to be visible. Monitoring of the fire from the air shows that the fire is moving slowly through ponderosa pine needles and large fallen trees on the ground. **For further information on the Bear Mountain Wildfire contact the Alpine Ranger District at (928) 339-5000.**

The Bear Mountain area closure also remains in effect, including all Forest Service land and trails within the vicinity of the Bear Mountain Fire. The following trails are closed: Trail 101, a portion of Trail 55, Trail 41, including the area north of the trails. Forest Roads 281 and 232 are open, however all areas south of Forest Roads 281 and 232 are closed.

This will be the final news release from the Southwest Area Type II Incident Management Team, further information may be obtained by contacting Clifton and Alpine Ranger Districts. Fire information may also be obtained by calling the 593 Joint Information Line at (928) 333-3412 or by visiting [www.593info.org](http://www.593info.org).

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