

CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST



FACT SHEET

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Magdalena Ranger District
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Friday, June 29, 2012– 8:00 AM Fire Update

Magdalena Ranger District: (575) 854-2281

SAWMILL Fire: Detected 6/23/2012 and located approximately 3 miles southeast of Magdalena Ridge Observatory/Langmuir Lab and approximately 13 miles south of Magdalena, New Mexico. The fire is located in extremely steep and rugged terrain burning in mixed conifer and through rock scree.

Current Size: 104 acres

Containment: 81%

Suppression Action: Firefighters have been able to prep and hold the fire line at the Ryan Hill/Sawmill Canyon Divide. Rock slides and scree slopes have helped to keep the fire from spreading to the north and south along the fire perimeter. The fire keeps rolling and backing down into Sawmill Canyon. Structure protection and a structure protection plan were provided to Magdalena Ridge Observatory and Langmuir Labs.

Fire Behavior: Minimal fire behavior was observed yesterday. Most of the fire activity continues to be in the interior of the fire. Heavy fuels continue to burn along with some smoldering on the ground.

Resources: 1 Type 1 Crew; 1 Type 3 Helicopter; 5 Type 6 Engines; 3 Water Tenders; and misc. overhead for a total of 86 personnel.

Structures Threatened: None at this time.

Closures: Forest Road 235 to the Magdalena Ridge Observatory/Langmuir Lab is closed to the public but is open to Fire and MRO/LL personnel only.

Fire and Smoking Restrictions:

Stage I and Stage II Fire Restrictions are currently in place on the Magdalena Ranger District. The Magdalena Mountains, Bear and Gallinas Mountains are in Stage I Fire Restrictions, while the San Mateo and Datil Mountains are in Stage II Fire Restrictions. Fire restrictions can be found at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/cibola> and <http://nmfireinfo.com>.

The New Mexico Gila/Las Cruces Type 3 Fire Management Team turned the Sawmill Fire back to the Magdalena Ranger District at 6:00 P.M. Thursday, June 28, 2012.

For more information about current fire activity on the Magdalena Ranger District Forest, contact Cindy Wolfe, District Fire Information Officer at 575-854-2281 or email: cwolfe@fs.fed.us.

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Two Kinds of Fire

A Wildland Fire is any non-structure fire that occurs in the wildland. There are two types of wildland fires. They are **wildfires** and **prescribed fires**.

Wildfires are unplanned ignitions or *prescribed fires that are declared wildfires*.

Some wildfires that occur naturally, by lightning, can be managed to achieve resource management objectives.

Prescribed fires are planned ignitions. They are ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives such as reducing hazardous fuel (brush, pine needles, etc) accumulations to prevent or reduce the intensity of a wildfire.