



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Jim Apodaca
GLZ Type III Team
Public Information Officer
575-740-2996

Sawmill Fire Information 6/25/2012

Detected: 6/23/2012

Cause: Unknown

Location: Approximately 13 miles south of Magdalena, New Mexico and approximately 3 miles southeast of Magdalena Ridge Observatory/Langmuir Lab. This fire is located in extremely steep and rugged terrain burning in mixed conifer and through rock screes.

Current Size: Estimated at 135 acres **Containment:** 0%

Suppression Actions: Firefighters will continue to build and improve fire line along the ridge that separates Sawmill and Ryan Hill Canyons. Crews are looking for opportunities to check the fire spread on the south and west flanks in conjunction with air resources. Multiple air resources continue to utilize retardant and water drops to slow and / or stop the spread of the fire. Additionally, structure protection is being implemented to the Langmuir Lab and Magdalena Ridge Observatory, atop Magdalena Ridge.

Fire Behavior: Most of the fire is burning on the ground at slow rates due to the air resources conducting successful drops. With this fire burning in such extreme terrain, there is a high likelihood for material to roll and ignite fire down slope. Fire could make short group torching and crowning runs upslope where aligned with fuels and topography. Fire activity will increase in the late afternoon.

Resources: 4 – Hotshot crews, 1 - wildfire Modular, 5 - Type 6 engines, 2 Type 2 helicopters, and misc. overhead for a total of 140 personnel.

Structures Threatened: None at this time.

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

This fire is being managed by the Gila / Las Cruces Zone Type 3 Team. For Further information regarding the Sawmill Fire, please contact Jim Apodaca at (575) 740-2996.
