



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Jim Apodaca

GLZ Type III Team

Public Information Officer

575-740-2996

Sawmill Fire Information 6/28/2012

Detected: 6/23/2012

Cause: Lightning

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: IR (infrared) Flight from 6/27/12 at 1:00 a.m. more accurately mapped the fire at 104 acres.

Containment: 81%

Suppression Actions: With the successful suppression actions that have occur over the past couple of days, several resources (some of the crews, water tenders, and helicopters) have been released. The remaining resources will continue to work at the Langmuir Lab and Magdalena Ridge Observatory to finish structure protection and be ready for the possibility of initial attack. The structure protection activities will help in case of future fires in the area. At the end of today's shift, management of this fire will be turned back over to the local district unless conditions determine otherwise. The remaining helicopters will be available for recon flights, possible water drops if needed, or for initial attack if any new starts occur.

Fire Behavior: Minimal fire behavior was observed yesterday. Most of the fire activity was in the interior of the fire. It was mainly heavy fuels burning and some smoldering on the ground.

Resources: 1 – Hotshot crews, 5 - Type 6 engines, 1 - Type 1 helicopters, 1 – Type 2 helicopter, 1 – Type 3 helicopter, 1 – water tenders, 1 – camp crew, and misc. overhead for a total of 70 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 then it will be transitioned to the local district. For Further information regarding the Sawmill Fire, please contact Cindy Wolfe at (575) 854-2281.
