



Gila National Forest, Glenwood Ranger District

Forest Service News Release

Glenwood Ranger District

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Sacaton Fire in Gila Wilderness remains active

(Glenwood, NM, June 29, 2026) — The very hot, dry, windy weather that affected much of the state, including all of the Gila National Forest, Saturday and Sunday, contributed to increased fire activity on the Sacaton Fire. During a reconnaissance flight Monday, the Glenwood Ranger District fire management officer observed a spot fire had become established about 0.5 miles northeast of the main fire. Combined, the main and spot fires are approximately 372 acres.

Fire behavior is being driven by weather, topography, and fuels. Where the fire is burning among numerous dead standing and down trees from the 2012 Whitewater-Baldy Fire, it is backing downslope or growing outward on its sides. Where the fire encounters pockets of vegetation not burned in 2012, it is making some uphill runs. The smoke being generated during periods of moderate fire behavior is widely visible: from the Gila Cliff Dwellings to the east, from Lordsburg to the south, along U.S. Route 180 to the west, and from Quemado to the north.

Numerous extreme hazards to ground and aerial firefighters exist, including extremely steep, rugged terrain; heavy dead and down fuels; overhead snags and six-hour ground evacuation times. Direct and indirect tactics are being used by firefighters. Direct tactics are being considered where fire is threatening identified values, such as the Mogollon Baldy Lookout, if the risks to firefighters' safety can be adequately mitigated and if the probability of success is high. The immediate values at risk do not include private property.

No significant rain is predicted this week. Smoke, and occasionally flames, will continue to be visible from great distances in all directions.

The lightning-caused Sacaton Fire was detected Sunday, June 21, in the Gila Wilderness. It is currently about 3.5 miles west of the Mogollon Baldy Lookout and approximately 12 miles east of the community of Pleasanton.

Stay informed about wildfire activity through the forest's [website](#) and [Facebook page](#), [InciWeb](#), [New Mexico Fire Information](#) or [WildFireSA](#).

About the Forest Service: The Forest Service has, for more than 100 years, brought people and communities together to answer the call of conservation. Grounded in world-class science and technology — and rooted in communities — the Forest Service connects people to nature and to each other. The Forest Service cares for shared natural resources in ways that promote lasting economic, ecological, and social vitality. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners and maintains the largest wildland fire

and forestry research organizations in the world. The Forest Service also has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 900 million forested acres within the U.S., of which over 130 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

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