



Forest Service News Release

Prescott National Forest Fire Information

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Crooks Fire Closure Lifted, Recreation Sites Open

PRESCOTT, AZ - May 25, 2022 – Firefighters have completed the majority of the initial phase of suppression repair work associated with the Crooks Fire. The current fire closure in the Spruce Mountain area has been lifted opening Groom Creek Trail Head 307, Groom Creek Loop Trail #307, Isabella Trail #377, Spruce Mountain Lookout and Picnic Site and Groom Creek Horse Camp. Patrolling and securing the perimeter of the fire will continue. As a reminder, residents within the Crooks Fire area need to utilize caution while driving on the roads as firefighters continue to work in and around the fire area. Hazards still exist in and around the fire area and residents living nearby should utilize care as fire-weakened trees, ash pits, and burned stump holes remain.

The Crooks Fire is at 96% containment. Objectives have not changed, and resources are still in place to meet those objectives. These objectives include, providing for the safety of the public and fire resources, keeping the fire within its current footprint, ensuring total suppression of the fire and completing suppression repair work. Fire containment likely will not change until measurable precipitation is received over the fire area.

As stated above the majority of the initial phase of suppression repair work has been completed. A second phase of suppression repair work will resume late summer early fall when weather conditions are more favorable and fire risk is reduced. This repair work will be taking place on Spruce Mountain ridge south of the Spruce Mountain Lookout Tower. A small closure area may go back into effect during the completion of this repair work to ensure firefighter and public safety.

REMINDER: Stage 2 Fire Restrictions will go into effect on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 8:00 A.M.

Prohibited: Igniting, building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three (3) feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of any flammable material. Welding, or operating any acetylene or other torch with an open flame. Operating a chain saw or other equipment operated by an internal combustion engine between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Discharging a firearm, except while engaged in a lawful hunt pursuant to state, federal, or tribal laws and regulations.

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