



Major Fire Daily Update

May 24, 2023

Release Time: 930am



Acres: 4949 acres (as of 5/23/2023)

Percent Containment: 79%

Start Date: April 27, 2023

Cause: Lightning

Jurisdiction: Ocala National Forest & Juniper Prairie Wilderness Area

Resources: 246 personnel including 1 handcrew, 10 engines, 1 masticator, and 3 helicopters

Highlights: Temperatures are forecast to be in the lower 80s with moderate winds from the northeast. Showers and isolated afternoon thunderstorms are expected. Fire behavior is primarily expected to be smoldering due to the moist conditions. Fire crews will be patrolling and monitoring, and some equipment is being back-hauled for demobilization. Fire suppression resources on the fire will continue to decrease as attention shifts to repair and rehabilitation of forest roadways and fire lines as needed. Containment estimate has increased from 44% to 79%.

Current Status: Fire crews will be patrolling and monitoring for hot spots and some equipment will be prepared for demobilization. Work on contingency lines around Sportsmans Haven also continues. Air resources remain available to support ground crews as weather and safety permits. The Southern Area Blue Team is beginning preparation for turning over management of the fire to a small team Saturday morning. Protection for historical and cultural resources, recreational areas, and residential properties in the Juniper Springs, Pat's Island, Sweetwater Cabin, Juniper Wayside, and Silver Glen areas remains a priority.

Minimal fire behavior is expected due to moist conditions. Smoldering of larger fuels and in deep pockets of duff with a few hot spots near Silver Glen. The potential for new fire starts is minimal again today due to moist conditions.

Weather: Mostly cloudy with high temperatures forecast in the lower 80s and lows in the upper 60s. Winds will be from the northeast at 7 to 11 mph with gusts to 17 mph in the afternoon. Minimum relative humidity is forecast to be 65 to 70% today. The chance of rain today is 70% with showers and isolated afternoon. Thunderstorms can produce locally heavy rain and gusty and erratic winds. Moisture remains in the forecast through Friday.

Ocala National Forest & Juniper Prairie Wilderness Temporary Area Closures: Closures are in effect for the Juniper Prairie Wilderness including the Florida National Scenic Trail between SR40 and National Forest System Road (NFS) 50. National Forest System Roads (NFS) 33 between State Road 40 and NFS 50; NFS 46 from NFS 33 to State Road 19; and NFS 50 from NFS 33 to State Road 19 are closed. [Closure Information available here.](#) Travel by residents, landowners, concessionaires, first responders, and permit holders (case-by-case) is permitted on NFS 50 east of Hopkins Campground.

Juniper Recreation, Hopkins Campground and the Ocala Gun Range areas are open. Silver Glen and Sweetwater Cabin areas will reopen on Friday to guests with reservations.

The Florida Department of Transportation opened SR 19 yesterday, and motorists are requested to report any limitations in visibility to the Florida Highway Patrol.

Air Quality Outlook: Air quality in the vicinity of the fire is expected to be **Good** for the next 48 hours. [Smoke Outlook available here.](#)

Fire Information

Office Hours: 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM EDT Phone: 352-448-0665

Email: 2023.major@firenet.gov

Inciweb: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/flfnf-major>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/NationalForestsInFlorida>

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