



Forest Service

National Forests in Florida
325 John Knox Road
Suite 210
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 523-8500
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/florida>

News Release



Media Contact: Antoinette Davis
(352) 448-0665
Email: antoinette.davis@usda.gov

Road Closures due to progression of fire in Juniper Prairie Wilderness

SILVER SPRINGS, Fla.,- Due to hot, dry, and unstably atmospheric conditions and gusty winds this afternoon, the Major Fire (started due to lightning activity on April 27, 2023) experienced increased fire activity on the eastern flank of the fire, threatening Silver Glen Springs Day Use Area and private property in the immediate area. As a result, State Road (SR) 19 from SR 40 going north to County Road (CR) 314 and National Forest System Road (NFS) 11 from CR 314 to SR 40 has been temporarily closed. Additionally, closures are in effect for NFS 09 from SR 40 to CR 314, and at the intersection of NFS 50 to NE 180th Ave and the intersection of NFS 05 and NFS 44.

Resources assigned to the fire will conduct firing operations to reduce the existing fuel load from NFS 46 to the existing containment line. Helicopters and air tankers are also in use on the fire.

Closures are in effect for the Juniper Prairie Wilderness including the Florida National Scenic Trail between SR 40 and NFS 50. NFS 33 between SR 40 and NFS 50; NFS 46 from NFS 33 to SR 19; and NFS 50 from NFS 33 to SR 19 are closed. Silver Glen Springs Recreational Area, Juniper Wayside, and the Salt Springs Observation Trail are closed due to the closure of SR 19.

Visitors to the forest are reminded to be aware of smoky conditions due to the fire. Drivers should move slowly and use headlights when driving through smoky areas as firefighters continue their efforts to contain the fire. Regulations will be enforced for the protection of visitors and natural resources.

Detour routes for the road closure are as follows: Northbound motorists will go west on SR 40 to north CR 314A to north on CR 314 to SR 19. Southbound will go south on CR 314 to south CR 314A to eastbound SR 40 to SR 19. Limited local access is available at CR 314 and SR 19.

To know before you go, visit:

InciWeb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/flfnf-major>

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The USDA Forest Service manages 193 million acres of public land. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply. For more information, visit www.fs.usda.gov/.