



News Release

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Memorial Day office closure, outdoor recreation information

SILVER CITY, NM; May 24, 2016 – For Immediate Release – Gila National Forest offices will be closed in observance of the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 30. Our offices will resume regular business hours at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 31.

The number of visitors in campgrounds and on trails generally increases over the Memorial Day weekend. Please plan ahead and be properly prepared for your trip. Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return. Remember that cell phones are unreliable in many parts of the forest. Be aware that weather can change very quickly and plan accordingly.

Adam Mendonca, Gila Forest Supervisor says, “Whether you like to hike, fish or star gaze, the Gila has something for you. We invite you to get outdoors and enjoy all the Gila has to offer. Please be responsible and have a safe and enjoyable trip on the forest.” Events coming soon:

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| • Catwalk Opening | Saturday, May 28 10:00 a.m. | Glenwood RD |
| • Kid’s Fishing Derby | Saturday, June 4 9:00 a.m. | Lake Roberts |
| • Celebration and Star Party | Saturday, June 4 4:00 p.m. | Cosmic Campground |

Visitors are encouraged to check with local offices for information about current conditions before traveling to the forest. There are no fire restrictions at this time; however, while visiting the Gila National Forest remember to always practice fire safety and follow these campfire guidelines:

- Clear all flammable material away from the fire for a minimum of five feet in all directions.
- Make a fire only if you have a shovel and sufficient water to put it out.
- Have a responsible person in attendance at all times.
- Never leave your campfire unattended.
- Never build a campfire on a windy day.
- To make sure your campfire is out, drown with water and stir with dirt, making sure all burned materials are extinguished. Feel with your hand to make sure it’s out cold.
- Every campfire will be put **DEAD OUT** before leaving it.

For information on recreation opportunities across the Gila National Forest, please see the forest website, <http://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/gila/recreation>.

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