



Site Number	Site Name	Location	Elevation	Camp Units	Picnic Units	Season of Use	Stay Limit/Days	Facilities	Site Number	Site Name	Location	Elevation	Camp Units	Picnic Units	Season of Use	Stay Limit/Days	Facilities
1	Piñon	B2	7800	23		May-Sept	14	[Icons]	22	Forks	C5	6000	10		All Year	14	[Icons]
2	El Casos #1 - #5	B2	7800	25		All Year	14	[Icons]	23	Grapevine	C5	6000			All Year	14	[Icons]
3	Juniper	B2	7800	36		May-Sept	14	[Icons]	24	Upper Black Canyon	C5	6750	2		Apr-Nov	14	[Icons]
4	Armijo Springs	B2	7800	5		All Year	14	[Icons]	25	Lower Black Canyon	C5	6750	2		Apr-Nov	14	[Icons]
5	Valle Tio Vincas & Public Corral	C2	8240	4		All Year	14	[Icons]	26	Rocky Canyon	C5	7400	2		Apr-Nov	14	[Icons]
6	Head of the Ditch	A3	7150	4		All Year	14	[Icons]	27	Mesa	C5	6150	24		All Year	14	[Icons]
7	Apache Creek	B3	6410	8		All Year	14	[Icons]	28	Lake Roberts Picnic Area	C5	6050	6		All Year	1	[Icons]
8	Cottonwood Canyon	A3	5805	4		All Year	14	[Icons]	29	Upper End	C5	6050	12		All Year	14	[Icons]
9	Pueblo Park	A3	6150	11		Apr-Nov	14	[Icons]	30	Sapillo Group Area	C6	6250	15		All Year	14	[Icons]
10	Gwynn Tank Campground	B4	7785	7		Apr-Nov	14	[Icons]	31	McMillen	C6	6950	3		Apr-Oct	14	[Icons]
11	South Fork Campground	B4	7505	7	1	Apr-Nov	14	[Icons]	32	Cherry Creek	C6	6800	9		Apr-Oct	14	[Icons]
12	Cosmic International Dark Sky Sanctuary	A4	5364	6	4	All Year	14	[Icons]	33a	Little Walnut Picnic Area	C6	6450	15		All Year		[Icons]
13	Big Horn	A4	4800	5		All Year	14	[Icons]	33b	Little Walnut East Group Picnic Area	C6	6450			All Year		[Icons]
14	Whitewater Picnic Area & Catwalk N.R.T.	A4	5200		24	All Year		[Icons]	33c	Little Walnut West Group Picnic Area	C6	6450	3		All Year		[Icons]
15	Ben Lilly	B4	8000	4		May-Nov	14	[Icons]	34	Gomez Peak Group Picnic Area	C6	6450			All Year		[Icons]
16	Willow Creek	B4	7950	4		Apr-Nov	14	[Icons]	35	Upper Gallinas	D6	6894	3		Apr-Oct	14	[Icons]
17	Aldo Leopold Vista	A4	5213	4		All Year		[Icons]	36	Railroad Canyon	D6	6854	3		Apr-Nov	14	[Icons]
18	Dipping Vat	B4	7350	40		Apr-Nov	14	[Icons]	37	Iron Creek	D6	7200	13		Apr-Oct	14	[Icons]
19	Aeroplane Mesa	C4	8040	6		May-Nov	14	[Icons]	38	Wright's Cabin	D6	7600	6		All Year		[Icons]
20	Wolf Hollow	C4	7840	6		All Year	14	[Icons]	39	Emory Pass Observation	D6	8200	3		All Year		[Icons]
21	Scorpion	C5	5700	17		All Year	14	[Icons]	40	Kingston	D6	6150	2		All Year	14	[Icons]

GILA NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO
2023



- Gila National Forest Land
- Adjacent National Forest Land
- Gila NF Wilderness
- Adjacent NF Wilderness
- US Fish and Wildlife Lands
- New Mexico State Parks
- Navajo Reservation Land
- Interstate Highway
- Primary Highway
- Improved Road, Paved
- Improved Road, Gravel
- Improved Road, Dirt
- Primitive Road, Dirt
- Scenic Byway
- Interstate Route
- U.S. Route
- State Route
- County Road
- Forest Road
- Gila NF Recreation Site
- Recreation Sites, Other Than Gila NF
- Point of Interest
- Gila National Forest Supervisor's Office
- Ranger District Office
- Forest Service Administrative Site

* All recreation sites are subject to closure due to fire or flood damage. Contact the local Ranger District for current information.

- Please call ahead for additional information.
- Trailer parking sites may have size limitations.
- Pets must be on leash in all recreation sites.

- Blue symbols indicate a facility or activity is accessible for persons with disabilities. Activity or facility accessible to those with disabilities may vary in difficulty. Call district office for detailed information.
- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| [Icon] Restrooms | [Icon] Trailhead | [Icon] Point of Interest | [Icon] Fee Required | [Icon] Fair Weather Road |
| [Icon] Camping | [Icon] Hiking Trail | [Icon] Drinking Water | [Icon] Reservation Required | [Icon] Fishing |
| [Icon] Picnic/Rest Area | [Icon] Interpretive Trail | [Icon] Archaeological Area | [Icon] Wilderness Access | [Icon] Boating |

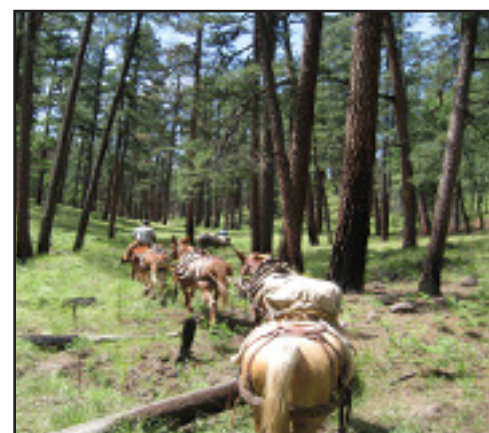
¡BIENVENIDOS! Welcome...to Gila National Forest



Mineral Creek

Welcome to Gila National Forest, 3.3 million acres of publicly owned forest and range land, rising above the desert country of southwestern New Mexico. The forest is a rugged realm of cactus and grass, juniper and pine, spruce and aspen, and few people. One unit lies less than 50 miles from the international border with Mexico. The main unit forms an irregular outline about 65 by 100 miles in an area just north of Silver City.

The Continental Divide meanders for 170 miles through this awesome canyon country, once the stronghold of Geronimo, prominent leader, warrior, and medicine man of the Chiricahua Apache, and his followers. Centuries ago, cliff-dwelling tribes lived here and remains of their homes are scattered throughout the forest. One outstanding example has been preserved for today's visitors by the National Park Service at Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument. Forest mountain ranges include the Mogollon, Tularosa, Diablo, Brushy, Saliz, San Francisco, Gallo, Mangas, Pinos Altos, Big Burro, Mimbres, and Black Range. Elevations start at 4,500 feet in the Chihuahuan Desert and rise to almost 11,000 feet on the often snow-covered crest of Whitewater Baldy.



Pack string in the Gila Wilderness

Recreation

The scenic drives, camp and picnic grounds, rushing streams, and majestic mountains of the Gila draw thousands of visitors each year. Leisure travel through the forest is the most popular recreational use. The tall timber around Reserve and Willow Creek, the famous Catwalk National Recreation Trail in Whitewater Canyon near Glenwood, the historic Fort Bayard area, and the fabled gold mining ghost town of Mogollon are other popular sites to enjoy. A pleasant surprise to many forest visitors is the number and quality of fishing streams. Species range from flathead and channel catfish in the lower elevations, to smallmouth bass in the middle reaches, and brown and rainbow trout above 6,000 feet. Hidden deep in the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wilderness areas are populations of the unique, golden-colored Gila trout currently listed as threatened. Fishing for Gila trout is regulated by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. The finest stream fishing awaits those who are willing to "pack in." Major streams at least partially accessible by road include all forks of the Gila River, upper San Francisco River, Willow Creek, Gilita Creek, and Whitewater Creek. Trout can also be taken at the popular Quemado Lake, Lake Roberts, and Snow Lake. The forest's river systems are also a refuge for such sensitive, threatened, and endangered species as the spikedace and loach minnow plus the Chihuahuan, headwater, Gila, and roundtail chubs. Hunting and fishing are open to all citizens and regulated by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.



McKnight Mountain

Water

Water is the lifeblood for all activities and is especially vital in the arid Southwest. Most of the water available for use in this region comes from the mountain lands which make up much of the national forests. The Forest Service is charged with protecting and improving the water producing capabilities of mountain watersheds. Rain and snow on the Gila bring 12 to 28 inches of water per year to this thirsty land. Timber, grass and shrubs use some of the moisture. Their roots stabilize the soil, thus allowing the remaining water to feed underground basins, creeks, springs, manmade water developments, as well as the Rio Grande and Gila, San Francisco, and Mimbres Rivers.



T-Bar Grasslands

Wildlife

Wildlife and fish are valuable resources of the forest. Each year thousands of visitors come to Gila to fish, hunt, and view wildlife, providing an important source of income for businesses in nearby communities. Big game species, such as mule deer, are common on the Gila. There are also many beautiful Sonoran whitetail or "Coues" deer. Numerous trophy class game animals have been taken in recent years. Pronghorn find forage on the grassland areas, while black bear and turkey are found throughout the forest. Javalina, or collared peccary, prefer to live in the warmer areas. Majestic Rocky Mountain elk roam in significant numbers, ranging from the lower elevations of piñon and juniper country up into the aspen high country. Fort Bayard Wildlife Refuge, 10 miles east of Silver City, offers the unique opportunity of viewing elk especially during autumn. In 1964, bighorn sheep were reintroduced into Gila country and are sometimes seen in the area southwest of Glenwood, along the San Francisco River, and in the Turkey Creek area.

Other wildlife include the reclusive mountain lion, porcupine, bobcat, ringtail, coati, several species of bats, many small mammals, and almost 350 species of birds including golden eagles, goshawks, and great horned, flammulated, and Mexican spotted owls.



Black Bear Cub

Wilderness

Gila National Forest includes more wilderness than any other national forest in the Southwest. This undeveloped natural country can refresh the human spirit simply by its grandeur, purity, and remoteness. Three such areas have been set aside; places individuals can visit and enjoy but not change. The 558,065-acre Gila Wilderness, established on June 3, 1924 at the urging of the great conservation pioneer Aldo Leopold, was the Nation's first designated wilderness. It's now bordered on the east by the 202,016-acre Aldo Leopold Wilderness. The 29,304-acre Blue Range Wilderness adjoins Arizona's rugged Blue Range Primitive Area. Together these areas comprise a vast, roadless realm astride the Black Range, and the Mogollon, Diablo, and Blue Mountains. In wilderness there are no roads; the only travel permitted is by foot, horseback, or canoe.



Senator Clinton P. Anderson Overlook



Gwynn Tank

Fire Safety

Campfires are allowed in the forest except during times of extreme fire danger. Before you head into the forest, always check to see what fire restrictions the forest has in effect. During extremely dry conditions, fires are often limited to camping stoves or are prohibited.

NEVER build a fire on an windy day!

NEVER leave a campfire unattended! Keep a shovel and water close by.

ALWAYS put your campfire out completely. Mix and stir campfire coals with dirt and/or water.

Please be careful where and when you smoke. It's unsafe to smoke while riding a horse or trail biking. While in your vehicle, always use your ashtray. Remember, a "No Smoking" sign in the forest means just that, not even in an automobile.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Be Responsible

Gila National Forest is federal land managed in trust for all citizens. Its management requires different laws and regulations based on local conditions. It is your responsibility to become familiar with restrictions by checking with local offices and reading signs and bulletin boards.

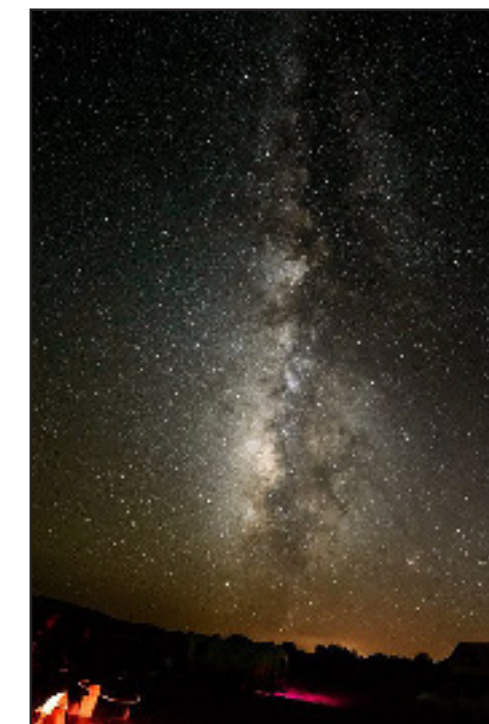
It is also your responsibility to be aware of the potential risks and take safety precautions at all times when visiting the Gila. Changing terrain, forest, and weather conditions present a wide variety of hazards. Hazards include but are not limited to: snow, landslides, falling trees or limbs, high or rushing water, contaminated water, wild animals, severe weather, becoming lost or overexerted, hypothermia, and exposure to the unreasonable acts of other people.

The Gila offers fairly primitive camping opportunities. Camping on the Gila is limited to 14 cumulative days within a 30-day period. Campers must move off forest after the 14 cumulative days. Often there is no trash service, so the forest recommends a "Pack It In/Pack It Out" policy and asks that visitors practice "Leave No Trace" principles. For more information on "Leave No Trace," go to <https://lnt.org>

Points of Interest

Cosmic IDSS - The Gila National Forest is home to the first designated International Dark Sky Sanctuary in North America and the first on National Forest System lands. It is located as part of the Cosmic Campground on the Glenwood Ranger District.

Whitewater Canyon/Catwalk National Recreation Trail - Whitewater Canyon, site of the very popular Catwalk Recreation Trail and Whitewater Picnic Area, was a central point in the mining saga of southwestern New Mexico. The town of Graham, also called Whitewater, grew up around a mill built by John T. Graham in 1893. The town survived less than 10 years. All that remains to mark the spot are part of the mill walls clinging to the west side of the canyon near the entrance to the Catwalk.



Setting Milky Way at Cosmic IDSS

Photo by David Thornburg

Motor Vehicle Use Maps

More Americans than ever are using off-highway vehicles (OHVs) to enjoy the outdoors. However, if not managed carefully, motorized recreation can damage both the land and the resources that visitors have come to enjoy. In 2005, the Forest Service published a new rule for motor vehicle use on national forests and grasslands. This rule requires each national forest and grasslands designate those National Forest System (NFS) roads, NFS trails, and areas on NFS lands that are open to motor vehicle use on a motor vehicle use map (MVUM). All visitors should check with the nearest FS office to obtain a MVUM.

To view the current Gila Pocket Guide and Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) with your smart device, you may scan the QR codes below.

Pocket Guide



<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/gila/maps-pubs>

MVUM



<https://www.fs.usda.gov/gota/r3/mvum>

RG-R3-06-04
 Quemado Rd P.O. Box 159 3005 East Camino del Bosque Silver City, NM 88061 (575) 773-4678
 Reserve Rd P.O. Box 170 3005 East Camino del Bosque Silver City, NM 88061 (575) 388-8201
 Black Range Rd 1804 North Date Street Reserve, NM 87830 (575) 533-6232
 Wilderness Rd HC 68 Box 50 Mimbres, NM 88049 (575) 536-2250
 Silver City Rd 3005 East Camino del Bosque Silver City, NM 88061 (575) 894-6677
 Glenwood Rd P.O. Box 8 Glenwood, NM 88039 (575) 388-8201

For maps and other information, contact:



2023



Gila National Forest Pocket Guide



New Mexico