

Island Lake Fire Information

*****This will be the last news release for the Island Lake Fire. For information regarding the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge, please call 928-783-3371. For information regarding Picacho State Recreation Area, please call 760-996-2963.**

For Release: May 23, 2013 – 8:30 a.m.

Contact: Fire Information Officer Lori Cook – 928-317-3243 or cell 928-246-8560

FIRE NAME: Island Lake Fire

LOCATION: The fire is located in the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge and Picacho State Recreation Area.

TIME REPORTED: May 19, 2013, at 1 p.m.

ACRES BURNED: The total perimeter of the fire is approximately 3,200 acres.

RESOURCES: There are currently 2 engines, 1 Type II hand crew, 1 fire boat, 1 law enforcement boat, and overhead personnel totaling approximately 40 people.

AGENCIES: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management,

LAND STATUS: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Picacho State Recreation Area and Norton's Landing (private inholding)

VEGETATION: Primarily salt cedar and phragmites

WEATHER: Temperatures today will be between 90 - 96 degrees with 5 – 10% humidity. The winds will be from the southwest at 5 - 15 mph.

RESOURCES AND STRUCTURES THREATENED: No structures are threatened at this time. Four shade structures, an outhouse, and one fence in the Picacho State Recreation Area have been destroyed.

CONTAINMENT: The fire is 90 percent contained at this time.

CAUSE: The cause of this fire is under investigation.

CURRENT STATUS: Today, the firefighters will continue to hold the firelines and monitor the perimeter of the fire. Smoke will continue to be visible for several days as interior vegetation pockets of the fire continue to burn.

For public safety reasons, all shorelines, side channels, backwaters, and lakes on the Colorado River will be closed between Island Lake and Catfish Cove due to the fire. Picacho State Recreation Area is also closed for public use. The main Colorado River channel remains open.

A variety of hazards exist even after a wildfire is contained. The ground and burned vegetation remain hot, and burned trees can fall without warning. Smoldering stump holes may be present. Fire can smolder underground for several weeks, and stepping into a hidden stump hole may cause severe burns.