

A PROCLAMATION

Gila National Forest, N. Mex. Preamble. Vol. 34, p. 3123. Vol. 34, p. 3274. Ante, p. 2120. Post, p. 2224.

WHEREAS, the Gila National Forest, in the Territory of New Mexico, was established by proclamation dated July twenty-first, nineteen hundred and five, and the Big Burros National Forest in the Territory of New Mexico was established by proclamation dated April sixth, nineteen hundred and seven;

And whereas, it appears that all of the Big Burros National Forest, a portion of the Gila National Forest, and certain other lands within the Territory of New Mexico not heretofore reserved, which are in part covered with timber, should be known as the Gila National Forest;

Boundaries modified.

Now, therefore, I, Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the power in me vested by the Act of Congress, approved June fourth, eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, entitled, "An Act Making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the Government for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, and for other purposes," do proclaim that the boundaries of the Gila National Forest shall, from the date of this proclamation, be as shown on the diagram forming a part hereof.

Post, p. 2191.

The remaining portion of the former Gila National Forest, with the exception of four sections which are indicated on the attached diagram as eliminated, shall remain reserved and together with certain additions from public lands shall constitute the Datil National Forest, according to my proclamation of this date.

Prior rights not affected, etc.

The withdrawal made by this proclamation shall, as to all lands which are at this date legally appropriated under the public land laws or reserved for any public purpose, be subject to and shall not interfere with or defeat legal rights under such appropriation nor prevent the use for such public purpose of lands so reserved, so long as such appropriation is legally maintained, or such reservation remains in force.

Lands restored to public domain.

The lands hereby excluded from the Gila National Forest which are not embraced in withdrawals for administrative sites for use in the management of the Forest, or in any other reservation, or appropriation, shall be restored to the public domain and become subject to settlement under the general provisions of the homestead laws on such date and after such notice by publication as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe, but shall not become subject to entry, filing, selection, or other form of appropriation until the expiration of thirty days from the date so fixed, and no person will be permitted to gain or exercise any right whatever under any settlement or occupation begun prior to such date, and all such settlement and occupation are hereby forbidden.

This proclamation shall not prevent the settlement and entry of any lands heretofore opened to settlement and entry under the Act of Congress approved June eleventh, nineteen hundred and six, entitled, "An Act to provide for the entry of Agricultural lands within forest reserves." **Agricultural lands.** Vol. 34, p. 233.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this 18th day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eight, [SEAL.] and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and thirty-second.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

By the President:

ELIHU ROOT

Secretary of State.

