

February 15, 1909.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Gila National Forest,
N. Mex.
Preamble.
Vol. 34, p. 3123.
Ante, p. 2190.

WHEREAS, it appears that the public good will be promoted by adding to the Gila National Forest certain lands within the Territory of New Mexico, which are in part covered with timber, and by excluding therefrom certain lands;

Boundaries modified.
Vol. 30, p. 36.

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 are hereby changed and that they are now as shown on the diagram forming a part hereof.

Prior rights not affected.

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.

Agricultural lands.
Vol. 34, p. 233.

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."

Lands restored to public domain, etc.

The lands hereby eliminated 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.

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 15th day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and nine, [SEAL.] and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and thirty-third.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

By the President:

ROBERT BACON

Secretary of State.

