

Pueblo Zone

2009

PROCEDURES FOR INITIATION OR RESCINDING FIRE RESTRICTIONS

PURPOSE OF FIRE RESTRICTIONS & EMERGENCY CLOSURES

The purpose of fire restrictions and closures is to reduce the risk of human-caused fires during unusually high fire danger and/or burning conditions, and for the protection of human life and property. Fire restrictions impose many limitations on the general public, and therefore should be implemented only after all other prevention measures have been taken. These measures may include, but are not limited to: increasing the number of prevention signs; public contacts; media campaigns; and other proactive outreach and public education efforts. Fire restrictions should be considered when high to extreme fire danger is predicted to persist. Other considerations are the level of human-caused fire occurrences being experienced, firefighting resources available, potential high-risk occasions (4th of July, etc.), and large fire activity occurring on a unit. Restrictions should not be considered the equivalent of a prevention program.

Fire restrictions and closures are invoked on federal, state, county, and private lands under federal and state laws. Agency Administrators are responsible for coordinating with other agencies including, but not limited to all Federal land management agencies, Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado State Parks, county sheriffs, county offices of emergency management, and local fire departments. Agency Administrators issue appropriate documents and are responsible for enforcing restrictions and closures for those lands on which they have jurisdiction. Restrictions and closure procedures must be uniform across administrative and geographic boundaries. Public information about restrictions must be broad-based, clear, and coordinated.

Annually, the parties to the Annual Operating Plan shall review and validate the restriction and closure procedures and monitor the previous year's use of the procedures to ensure restrictions and closures are implemented consistently. At this time the parties will also evaluate and coordinate fire prevention, education, and outreach efforts. Any changes in agency contacts or administrators will be documented, with the development or amendment of a contact/communications plan. All press releases, description of stages, and other necessary agency documents will be available in template format before the start of the fire season. Development and issuance of news releases will be coordinated with all agencies for any implementation or rescission of fire restrictions or area closures.

When the conditions within an area approach threshold levels, appropriate agency personnel make recommendations to Agency Administrators, who in turn should consult with each other and initiate coordinated restrictions/closure procedures. These threshold levels should be determined by all wildland management agencies in the county before the onset of fire season and will become part of the Annual Operating Plan. The planning process for restrictions will include a public awareness campaign, keeping the media and

public informed of the possibility of restrictions and/or closures.

Fire restrictions and closures should be planned for the long-term danger and not change at short-term fluctuations in risk, weather, and fire danger/behavior. The agencies will coordinate all public information. It is the responsibility of each Agency Administrator to notify their agency head of local interagency decisions made about fire restriction or area closure implementation and rescission.

INITIATION:

1. When the factors identified in the FIRE RESTRICTION EVALUATION GUIDELINES approach critical levels for an area, begin considering the initiation of a fire restriction. The appropriate FMO or Sheriff will contact the Pueblo Interagency Dispatch Center (PIDC) to coordinate. They will initiate discussion to both implement and rescind fire restrictions within the boundaries of the Pueblo Interagency Dispatch area. County Sheriff's that have emergency needs to by pass the Fire Restrictions Operations Plan will immediately notify Pueblo Dispatch of the status of fire restrictions occurring.
2. Every spring, PIDC Fire Board Memembers, law enforcement personnel and fire managers will review and validate the Restriction Plan and Orders. Restrictions will be implemented and rescinded by Fire Restriction Area and all agencies within the area will coordinated uniform levels and timing of restrictions, verifying that the trigger point have been reached.
3. The appropriate agency board member will coordinate approval of the Orders with all agency administrators. Each agency administrator will be responsible for assuring that appropriate Orders and Restrictions are properly completed and signed. The Orders and Restrictions will be based on the elements for standard orders contained within this plan. Law enforcement personnel will review the Orders each spring.
4. Each agency will post signs and notifications according to their regulations to inform the public of the restrictions.
5. Once a restriction is in effect, participating agencies will not issue exemptions, exceptions, or waivers to the agreed-upon restrictions except through written individual permits. If written exemptions are given, affected agencies within the fire restriction area will be notified to avoid confusion among law enforcement and fire personnel.
6. Each agency will inform it's personnel of the restrictions being enacted and discuss changes in their daily routine to compensate for the increased fire danger. Those responsible for public contact (receptionists, etc.) will be provided with a copy of the restrictions and appropriate map.

Each agency in Pueblo Interagency Dispatch Area will be updated on restriction status as changes occur. The Agency Prevention Officer will be responsible for disseminating this information to all agencies.

Early in the season, Information Officers for each agency will be responsible for notifying the public that they can now find the status of fire restrictions within the Pueblo Interagency Dispatch area by contacting their local State, Forest Service, Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, or BLM office. The intent is to better inform the public of fire restrictions throughout southern Colorado when they may be planning activities to areas away from their home.

RESCINDING A RESTRICTION:

Removal of the restrictions will follow the same Procedures outlined above. The majority of Agency Administrators (review Concurrence Group listing for each fire restriction area) and fire personnel must agree that the restriction should be removed (trigger points for rescinding restrictions have been reached) in that fire restriction area. The Agency Restriction Area Information Officer will then prepare a media notification plan to inform the public.

FIRE RESTRICTION EVALUATION GUIDELINES

(ALL FIRE RESTRICTION AREAS)

When weather factors or fire suppression impacts become a concern, the following criteria will be used to determine if a Fire Restriction should be considered by area. Use weather data from weather stations in each Fire Restriction Area to make determination. When more than one station must be evaluated in an area, average the output to arrive at the following criteria:

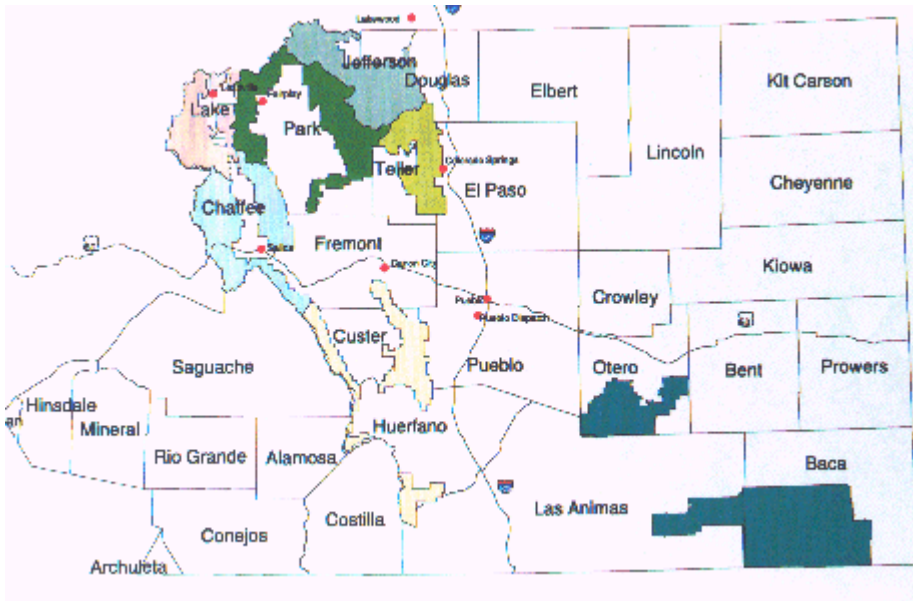
- _____ 1,000 HOUR FUEL MOISTURE CONTENT IS 12% OR LESS.
- _____ 3 DAY MEAN ENERGY RELEASE COMPONENT (ERC) IS AT THE 90TH PERCENTILE OR ABOVE.
- _____ FIRE DANGER RATING ADJECTIVE CLASS IS AT VERY HIGH OR EXTREME.
- _____ FIRES ARE IMPACTING AVAILABLE SUPPRESSION RESOURCES MAKING ADEQUATE INITIAL ATTACK DIFFICULT
- _____ AREA IS RECEIVING A HIGH OCCURRENCE OF HUMAN-CAUSED FIRES OR THE HUMAN CAUSED RISK IS PREDICTED TO INCREASE.
- _____ ADVERSE FIRE WEATHER CONDITIONS AND RISKS ARE PREDICTED TO CONTINUE.
- _____ ZONE FIRE PREPAREDNESS LEVEL OF 4 OR ABOVE

STAGE I: IF AT LEAST 3 OF THE CONDITIONS ABOVE ARE MET, CONSIDER INITIATING A STAGE I RESTRICTION.

STAGE II : CONSIDER INITIATING A STAGE II RESTRICTION AFTER A STAGE I RESTRICTION HAS BEEN IN EFFECT AND 4 OR MORE OF THE CONDITIONS ABOVE ARE IMPACTED.

STAGE III : CONSIDER INITIATING A STAGE III AREA CLOSURE AFTER A STAGE II RESTRICTION HAS BEEN IN EFFECT AND 5-6 OR MORE OF THE CONDITIONS ABOVE ARE IMPACTED.

PUEBLO INTERAGENCY FIRE RESTRICTIONS AREAS:



In the event that conditions on a given administrative unit require the implementation of fire restrictions either Stage I or Stage II, or an Stage III Area Closure, the following process will be followed for:

- * Review process of the order and news release prior to dissemination
- * Notification to the Pueblo interagency Dispatch Fire Board members
- * Dissemination of the order
- * Dissemination of the Media News Release
- * Contacts with law enforcement on forest
- * Contacts to concessionaires
- * Post to web

Kay Dougan will draft the order for the PSICC Forest Supervisor's signature and Dave Dire will draft the order for the RGF Forest Supervisor's signature. Concurrently Barbara Timock, Forest PAO, will coordinate with BLM PAO on media news release.

REVIEW PROCESS

Once the Order and the News Release are in final draft, they should be reviewed for accuracy before sending them anywhere. This may be most critical step in the process and it can't be overlooked. We all tend to think that our work is accurate, but at times we need several folks to check it over before it goes out in the open

News release and order will be reviewed by the following:

- *Shane Greer PSICC Forest Fire Mgt. Officer
- *Ralph Bellah PSICC Forest Prevention Officer
- *Barb Timock PSICC Forest Public Affairs Officer
- *Jim Jaminet RGF Forest Fire Mgt. Officer
- *Lary Floyd RGF Assistant Forest Fire Mgt. Officer

Kay Dougan (PSICC) and Mike Blakeman (RGF) will send of copy of the signed order to the following contacts:

*PSICC and / or Rio Grande NF Employees

*Forest Law Enforcement including:

PSICC	Lana Tyler	Supervisor LEO
	Vacant	San Carlos RD LEO
	Jerry Cannon	Salida / Leadville LEO
	Vacant	South Platte RD LEO
	Tom Healy	Pikes Peak RD LEO
	Kenny Archuleta	South Park RD LEO
RGF/SLV-PLC	Annette Pintado	R.O. and Commanche & Cimarron National Grasslands LEO
	Chris Ortiz	Conejos Peak RD LEO
	Lynn Wubben	Saguache RD LEO
	Derek Chodorowski	SLV BLM LEO

Barb Timock or Cass Cairns will draft the media news release which will be disseminated as follows:

*PSICC Employees
*Colorado NF PAO's
*Cass Cairns BLM Canon City
* Steve Segin R.O.

The Forest Prevention Officer will contact the following persons and groups with copies of the Order and the news release once they are available.

*Bill Ott Fire Ops R-2
*Mark Boche Director Fire & Aviation R-2
*Adjacent Forest Fire Management Officers
*Adjacent Forest Dispatch centers
*Cooperators PIDC Fire Board Members
*RMAACC

MEDIA NOTIFICATIONS:

Media notification of Fire Restrictions in this area will be the responsibility of the Public Information Officer or his/her designate. This individual will coordinate with Information Officers from the Concurring Agencies listed above, to assure an organized and interagency approach. He/she will also assure that everyone in the Key Contact Group has been notified and receives a copy of the Restriction Orders and a map. Written informational releases that detail the reasons, objectives, locations, and exact restrictions will be prepared. All of the television stations, newspapers, radio stations, etc. in the Area will be notified of the restrictions and a schedule of future informational releases developed. Rescinding Fire Restrictions will follow the same Procedures.

STAGE I, II AND III RESTRICTIONS

There will be three fire restriction Stages: Stage I, Stage II and Stage III. Each Agency in the Fire Restriction Area must write their own Special Order which authorizes the restrictions within their jurisdiction. Each is responsible for using their agencies format and having their Law Enforcement personnel review the Order to assure it is legally correct and enforceable. To reduce confusion and standardize the restrictions, the following criteria will be used in all Orders:

STAGE I:

The following acts are prohibited on the public land, roads, and trails described herein, until further notice:

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire except a fire within a permanent constructed fire grate in a developed campground.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

STAGE II:

The following acts are prohibited on the public land, roads, and trails described herein, until further notice:

1. Building maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building.
3. Operating a chainsaw or motorized equipment for any purpose.
4. Blasting, welding, or other activities which generated flame or flammable material.

STAGE III:

Stage III is a closure. This stage is selected when there is a very high risk to human life or property and the ability to manage those risks using Stage I or Stage II restrictions is no longer viable.

DEFINITIONS:

The following definitions should be used as part of, or referenced to, in the Special Orders or Laws that initiate and authorize a Stage I or Stage II Restriction:

CAMPFIRE: A fire, not within any building, mobile home, or living accommodation mounted on a vehicle, which is used for cooking, branding, personal warmth, lighting, ceremonial, or aesthetic purposes. Campfires are open fires, usually built on the ground, from native fuels or charcoal, including charcoal grills. Campfire includes "fire".

RESTRICTIONS: A limitation on a activity or use.

CLOSURE: The closing of an area to entry or use.

STOVE FIRE: A campfire built inside an enclosed stove, grill or portable brazier, including a space heating device.

DEVELOPED RECREATION SITE: An area which has been improved or developed for recreation. A developed recreation site is signed as and agency-owned campground or picnic area and identified on a map as a site developed for that purpose.

DESIGNATED AREA: A geographic area defined by an agency in which specific land use activity is occurring.

PERMIT: A written document issued by an authorized agency representative to specifically authorize an otherwise prohibited act.

CHAINSAW: A saw powered by an internal combustion engine, with cutting teeth linked in an endless chain.

MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT: Any equipment or vehicles propelled by an internal combustion engine.

DESIGNATED ROADS AND TRAILS: Those roads and trails which are identified on maps regularly provided to the public by Land Management agencies.

EXAMPLES OF ORDERS FOLLOWS

STAGE I
ORDER NO 00- 00

ORDER FIRE AND SMOKING RESTRICTIONS PIKE AND SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FORESTS COMANCHE NATIONAL GRASSLAND

Pursuant to **16 U.S.C. 551** and 36 CFR 261.50(a), and (b), 261.52(a) and (d) the following acts are prohibited **on all National Forest System lands administered by the Pike and San Isabel National Forests and Comanche National Grasslands** located within Jefferson, Park, Douglas, Teller, El Paso, Pueblo, Chaffee, Lake, Custer, Fremont, Huerfano, Las Animas, Costilla, Otero and Baca Counties in Colorado (**the "restricted area"**).

PROHIBITIONS:

- (1) Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or stove fire. (This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, charcoal grills, hibachis and coal or wood burning stoves (36 CFR 261.52(a)).

EXCEPTIONS: Campfires are allowed in Forest Service developed campgrounds and picnic grounds with in Forest Service provided manufactured or constructed fire grates and grills. Petroleum fueled stoves, lanterns, or heating devices are allowed on all National Forest System lands, provided such devices meet the fire underwriter's specifications for safety.

DEFINITION: Campfire means a fire, not within any building, mobile home or living accommodation mounted on a motor vehicle, which is used for cooking, personal warmth, lighting, ceremonial, or esthetic purposes. Fire includes campfire (36CFR 261.2).

- (2) Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three (3) feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all-flammable material. (36 CFR 261.52(d)).

EXEMPTIONS:

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this order:

- (1) Persons with a Forest Service permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
- (2) Resident owners and lessees of land and holders of Forest Service recreational use authorizations, within the restricted area are exempt from Prohibition number one (1) above, provided such fires are within a permanent structure.
- (3) Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organizer rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

The purpose of this Order is to protect public health and safety. This Order will be in effect from 0800 MDT on July 13, 2005, until December 31, 2005, or until rescinded, whichever event occurs first. This Order supersedes, replaces and rescinds Order No. 05-04.

Done at Pueblo, Colorado this 12th day of July, 2005.

/s/
Forest Supervisor
Pike/San Isabel National Forests
Cimarron/Comanche National Grasslands

Violation of these prohibitions are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both. (16U.S.C.551 and 18 U.S.C. 3559 and 3571).

SAMPLE STAGE II WITH HOOT OWL RESTRICTION ON FOLLOWING PAGE

ORDER
STAGE II
FIRE AND SMOKING RESTRICTIONS
PIKE AND SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FORESTS
COMANCHE AND CIMARRON NATIONAL GRASSLANDS

Pursuant to 36 CFR Sec. 261.50(a), and (b), the following acts are prohibited on all National Forest system lands within Pike and San Isabel National Forests, and the Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands.

- (1) Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, charcoal broiler, or a coal or wood-burning stove. 36 CFR 261.52(a).
 - (a) Use of Petroleum fueled stoves, lanterns, or heating devices providing such devices meet the fire underwriter's specifications for safety)
- (2) Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, or in areas posted by authorized Forest Officers. 362.52(d).
- (3) Welding, or operating an acetylene torch or other activities that generate flame or flammable material. 36 CFR 261.52(i).
- (5) Operation of a chainsaw can only be done between the hours of 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m with a current Fuelwood Permit only in designated fuelwood areas.
 - 36 CFR 261.52 (h)

The following restrictions are proposed to be included within an order issued under 36 CFR 261.50 (a) and/or (b) that specifies "Hoot Owl."

Hoot Owl Restrictions

1. Operating or using any internal or external combustion engine is prohibited between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m., local time except as follows:
 - (a) Vehicles licensed for highway use and licensed off-highway vehicles may be operated on existing National Forest system roads and trails open to motorized use, and on temporary roads authorized under a contract or permit.
 - (b) For commercial operations authorized under contract or permit: Upon the written approval of the Contracting Officer or Special Use Permit Administrator, internal and external combustion engines may be operated on areas that are cleared of timber, brush and grass. Contracting officers and special use permit administrators may require additional fire precautionary measures such as fire engines when authorizing operations under this section.

Internal and external combustion engines operated under (a) or (b) must be equipped with a spark arresting device properly installed, maintained and in effective working order meeting either:

- (1) Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Standard 5100-1a, or
- (2) Appropriate Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) recommended practice J 335 (b) and J350 (a). 36

CFR 261.52(j)

2. Using explosives, blasting, welding, or any other activity that generates flame or flammable material is prohibited except as provided elsewhere in this order.
3. A patrol is required for a period of two hours after cessation of activities, except those permitted under item 1(a) above. The patrol is responsible for checking compliance with required fire precautions, watching for emerging fires, reporting fires, and initiating suppression of any fire.

Pursuant to 36 CFR Section 261.50(e), the following persons and actions are exempt from this order:

- (1) Holders of Recreation Resident Permits located on National Forest Lands within the restricted area are exempt from number 1 above, provided such fires are within a enclosed structure.
- (2) Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
- (3) Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

This temporary order will be in effect from 08:01 AM May 14, 2004 until rescinded.
Done at Pueblo, Colorado this 13th day of May 2004.

Forest Supervisor
Pike/San Isabel National Forests
Comanche/Cimarron National Grasslands

SAMPLE STAGE II ORDER ON FOLLOWING PAGE

SAMPLE STAGE II
ORDER NO. 00-00
FIRE RESTRICTIONS
PIKE AND SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FORESTS
COMANCHE AND CIMARRON NATIONAL GRASSLANDS

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(a), the following acts are prohibited on all National Forest system lands within the Pike and San Isabel National Forests and the Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands until further notice.

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, charcoal grill, coal or wood burning stove (36 CFR 261.52(a)).
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building (36 CFR 261.52(d)).
3. Using an explosive (36 CFR 261.52(b)).
4. Welding, or operating an acetylene or other torch with open flame (36 CFR 261.52(i)).
5. Operation of a chainsaw is only allowed between the hours of 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (36 CFR 261.52(h)).

Actions still permitted:

1(a) Use of Petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns, or heating devices, providing such devices meet the underwriter's specifications for safety

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e) the following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Holders of a Recreation Residence Permit located within the restricted area are exempt from Number #1 above, provided such fires are within an enclosed structure.
2. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
3. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

This order is in effect beginning 12:00 AM, May 17, 2004, and until rescinded.

Done in Pueblo Colorado this 15th day of May 20004.

Forest Supervisor
Pike/San Isabel National Forests Comanche/Cimarron National Grasslands

Violations of these prohibitions are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both. (16U.S.C.551 and 18 U.S.C. 3559 and 3571).

* * * * * END OF OPERATIONS PLAN * * * * *