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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Intermountain Region

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Intermountain Region News Release

Bandelier National Monument Reopens Backcountry and Lifts Fire Restrictions

Darlene M. Koontz, Superintendent of Bandelier National Monument announced today, “With the much needed summer rains and increased humidity levels, we are finally getting some relief from the high temperatures and dry conditions in Bandelier. This has enabled us to reopen all backcountry areas of the park and to permit campfires in our developed frontcountry campgrounds – effective immediately.”

“It is very important that the public stay aware of the ever-changing fire conditions,” says Bandelier Fire Management Officer Gary Kemp. “If these heavy rains do not continue throughout the summer then fire conditions will worsen requiring fire restrictions. Public awareness of conditions and adherence to restrictions is essential to preventing human-caused fires.”

“Although we have reopened our backcountry, we encourage all hikers to enter this extreme environment prepared for changing conditions,” added Koontz. “Summer daytime temperatures may still reach over 90 degrees accompanied by blistering sun. Water sources are few and far between in our backcountry so carrying and drinking sufficient water is critical. During summer monsoons temperatures may rapidly drop and these thunderstorms often create hazardous lightning and flash floods. All hikers must be aware of and prepared for these summertime conditions.”

Campfires are prohibited in all backcountry areas. Visitors to the Monument may still use safe, petroleum-heated stoves, lanterns or cooking devices in the designated backcountry campgrounds. Stoves should only be used in locations clear of vegetation or other flammable materials. Backcountry permits are required for overnight use of the Bandelier backcountry. These free permits may be obtained at the Bandelier visitor center. The visitor center is open daily from 8 a.m until 6 p.m. daily through Labor Day. For more information about Bandelier, please call the visitor center at (505) 672-3861 ext.517 or visit www.nps.gov/band.

The toll free fire restriction hotline phone number for New Mexico is: (877) 864-6985. For further fire information visit www.nmfireinfo.com.

“DO YOUR PART, DON’T LET A WILDFIRE START!”

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.