

NEWS

For Immediate Release

United States
Department
Of Agriculture

Forest Service

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PARTIAL CLOSURES DROPPED ON THE CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST STAGE I FIRE RESTRICTIONS REMAIN

ALBUQUERQUE, July 7, 2006 – Cibola National Forest fire officials have decided to enter into widespread Stage I Fire Restrictions effective July 7, 2006 at 8:00am following recent rainfall in many areas of the forest. “The recent precipitation has been beneficial to the forest and warrants lowering fire restrictions,” said Nancy Rose, Forest Supervisor. “However, the rainfall has not been uniform or widespread with amounts varying from less than ½” to over 2 inches. Consequently, there is still a need for Stage I Fire Restrictions,” added Rose. Forest Supervisor Nancy Rose recommend the public be extremely cautious when driving off road or on low standard roads due to the recent rain fall. **Stage I Fire Restrictions remain in effect** for the Mt. Taylor, Magdalena, Mountainair, and the Sandia Ranger Districts. Those restrictions are as follows:

Open Campfire Restrictions:

- Campfires, charcoal grills and stove fires **are prohibited** on national forest lands, except in Forest Service developed camp and picnic grounds where grills are provided.
- Pressurized liquid or gas stoves, lanterns and heaters meeting safety specifications are allowed. Please contact the Cibola National Forest for more details regarding where fires are allowed.

Smoking Restrictions:

- Smoking is allowed within an enclosed vehicle or building; a developed recreation site; or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter and free of all flammable material.

Fireworks:

- As always, fireworks are prohibited on all national forest lands.

On the Kiowa National Grasslands Mills Canyon will remain closed because of extreme fire danger. This closure will be only for the Mills Canyon area near Roy, NM. All other recreation sites on the Kiowa National Grasslands remain open; however the following fire restrictions remain in effect for the open areas:

- Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, charcoal broiler, coal or wood stove are prohibited. Pressurized liquid or gas stoves, lanterns and heaters meeting safety specifications are allowed.
- All vehicles must remain on Forest roads.
- Smoking is prohibited, except within an enclosed vehicle or building.
- As always, fireworks are prohibited on all national grasslands.

Please call one of the following for more information: Mark Chavez, Cibola National Forest Supervisor’s Office at 505-346-3900 or one of the following district offices:

- Sandia Ranger District, 505-281-3304
- Mountainair Ranger District, 505-847-2990
- Magdalena Ranger District, 505-854-2281
- Mt. Taylor Ranger District, 505-287-8833
- Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands, 505-374-9652

When planning a trip to your National Forest, **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**. For current fire restriction information, please call 1-877-864-6985 or visit our website at www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola. For fire restrictions and other fire information for all recreation sites in New Mexico, log on to www.nmfireinfo.com.