

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service Santa Fe National Forest



For Immediate Release

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SANTA FE NATIONAL REMAINS OPEN UNDER STAGE II FIRE RESTRICTIONS

(Santa Fe, NM)—After careful consideration, Forest Supervisor Gilbert Zepeda announced Monday afternoon that the Santa Fe National Forest **would not implement partial closures (Stage III Fire Restrictions)** this week. “Lessons learned have shown us how closures can impact local economies and at this time the public’s adherence to current restrictions, predicted moisture, and the availability of fire fighting resources will allow the Forest to remain in Stage II Fire Restrictions,” said Zepeda.

The Santa Fe National Forest **remains open under Stage II Restrictions**. Stage II Fire Restrictions prohibits the following:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal, or wood stove. **Petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns, propane grills, and heating devices are allowed within developed recreation or improved sites.**
2. Smoking.
3. Possessing, discharging or using any kind of firework or other pyrotechnic device.
4. Using an explosive.
5. Operating a chainsaw, or other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine, is prohibited from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. **Firewood gatherers are allowed to remove wood from designated areas from 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m.**
6. Operating or using any internal or external combustion engine without spark arresters.
7. Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame.
8. Possessing or using a motor vehicle off National Forest System roads.

Violation of these regulations are punishable as a Class B misdemeanor, by a fine of not more than \$5000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months or both.

Fire managers will continue to monitor conditions on a daily basis to determine whether partial closures will need to be implemented in the future.

When planning a trip to your National Forest, **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO** and take fire restrictions seriously. For current fire restriction information, please call 1-877-864-6985 or visit our website at www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe. For comprehensive wildfire and restriction information across New Mexico, please visit www.nmfireinfo.com.

