



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS**  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

# **SOUTHERN UTE RESERVATION LIFTS STAGE I FIRE RESTRICTIONS**

Ignacio, CO July 24, 2008

The Southern Ute Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs announces that Stage I Fire Restrictions will be lifted. "Recent rain has improved the previously dry fuel conditions and we are now able to lift fire restrictions for all trust lands within the Southern Ute Indian Reservation." States Rich Gustafson, Fire Management Officer with the Southern Ute Agency. "However, we are asking that everyone still use caution when burning, especially in the grass fuels that can dry out quickly."

Stage I restrictions were implemented on June 26 due to dry conditions and prohibited open burning, agricultural burning, camp fires outside of designated camping areas and fireworks.

**The Stage I Restrictions will be lifted effective 8:00 AM, July 27, 2008.**

The Southern Ute Reservation has had 26 fires this year with the largest being the Round Top fire which burned a total of 38 acres. Currently, Southern Ute fire personnel are in California assisting with the fire suppression efforts there.