

NEWS RELEASE

Pacific Northwest Region - Colville National Forest
765 S. Main Street, Colville, WA 99114, www.fs.usda.gov/colville

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August 23, 2016

Stage 1 Fire Restrictions on the Colville National Forest

Colville, WA (August 23, 2016) - Colville National Forest officials are implementing Stage I fire restrictions on Thursday, August 25, 2016, at 0001 hrs. (12:01 a.m.) and will remain in effect until rescinded. Campfires will only be allowed in approved campgrounds and smoking will be prohibited outside of a vehicle. These restrictions apply to all areas, roads, and trails on the Colville National Forest.

The restrictions include building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, or charcoal grill on the Colville National Forest outside of a designated campground. Liquid gas stoves are exempt from this restriction. Smoking is prohibited on the Colville National Forest except within an enclosed vehicle, building or fully enclosed camp trailer. This restriction does not apply to designated campgrounds with improved campfire facilities. Please contact your local forest service office to ensure you are in a designated campground.

“As firefighting efforts continue across the state and daily temperatures, lower humidity, and dry winds continue to dry out vegetation in eastern Washington we will be moving into fire restrictions,” said Rodney Smoldon, Colville National Forest Supervisor. Smoldon added, “Our residents and visitors certainly understand just how high our fire danger is right now across the state, and the restrictions serve as a reminder that we need everyone’s help in preventing a wildfire.”

Motorists should also exercise caution when driving on Forest roads and trails by avoiding dry grass and vegetation; hot exhaust systems can easily ignite dry grasses. Visitors are also encouraged to have a shovel, water, and a fire extinguisher available. It is also important to remember that fireworks are never allowed on National Forests.

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Please report fires by calling 9-1-1, or (509) 685-6900, the Northeast Washington Interagency Communication Center in Colville. Information on how to make sure your campfire is “dead out” and other fire prevention tips can be found at www.smokeybear.com or by contacting your local forest service office.

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The mission of the US Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Recreational activities on our lands contribute \$14.5 billion annually to the U.S. economy. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.



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