



UPPER COLORADO RIVER
FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT
BLM-NORTHWEST DISTRICT
BLM-SOUTHWEST DISTRICT
USFS-WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST



NEWS RELEASE

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BLM lands in Eagle, Garfield, and Pitkin counties and White River National Forest enact Stage 1 fire restrictions

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. – All lands managed by the White River National Forest and lands in Eagle, Garfield and Pitkin counties managed by the Bureau of Land Management will be under stage 1 fire restrictions beginning Thursday, July 2.

Unincorporated private lands in Eagle and Pitkin counties will also enter fire restrictions on July 2. Garfield, Mesa and Summit counties along with the Dillon Ranger District, BLM lands in Summit County, and BLM lands managed by the Grand Junction Field Office are already under stage 1 fire restrictions.

Under stage 1 restrictions:

- campfires are only allowed within designated fire grates in developed campgrounds (i.e. a metal, in-ground containment structure -- fire pans and rock campfire rings are not acceptable)
- no fires of any type including charcoal outside of developed areas
- no smoking except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or in a barren area free of vegetation
- no use of explosive materials, including explosive targets
- no welding or operation of an acetylene or other similar torch with open flame except from an area that has been cleared of vegetation
- no operation of any internal combustion engine without a spark arresting device properly installed and in working order

Although conditions vary across the area, a longer-term drying trend is expected.

“Fire restrictions are prudent at this time given the long-range forecast, the continued high public visitation, and the extra precautions needed this year with the pandemic,” said White River National Forest Supervisor Scott Fitzwilliams.

“As conditions dry, we are seeing more human-caused fires across the area,” said BLM Colorado River Valley Field Manager Larry Sandoval. “Please remember that fireworks are never allowed on Federal land, and in the developed areas where campfires are permitted, please ensure your fire is completely out before leaving camp.”

Officials consider a number of criteria when determining the need for fire restrictions, including current and anticipated fire danger, resource availability, and consistency with neighboring jurisdictions. Local, county, state and federal officials within the UCR area evaluate and coordinate fire restrictions weekly during fire season.

For more information about the White River National Forest, call 970 945-2521 or visit www.fs.usda.gov/whiteriver. For more information about the BLM, call 970 876-9000 or visit www.blm.gov.

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