



**UPPER COLORADO RIVER
FIRE AND AVIATION MANAGEMENT UNIT**

INTERAGENCY

BLM - NORTHWEST DISTRICT
BLM - SOUTHWEST DISTRICT
USFS - WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST



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Drought conditions persist; White River National Forest and BLM Colorado River Valley reinstate Stage 1 Fire Restrictions

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. – Due to lack of moisture, increasingly dry fuel conditions, and an uptick in wildfire activity, the White River National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management Colorado River Valley Field Office will reinstate Stage 1 Fire Restrictions at 12 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 21, 2018.

Despite a slight cooling trend this week, the area has received little to no consistent moisture over the past few weeks. Weather forecasts indicate that little to no moisture will fall over the area for up to the next 10 days. Lack of precipitation coupled with warm temperatures have significantly increased the potential for wildfire.

“Currently, fuel moistures are at a record-low,” said Scott Fitzwilliams, Forest Supervisor. “The risk for human-caused fire starts given current conditions is high. Weather predictions over the next few weeks are not favorable for moisture, so we need to do what we can to take preventative action until moisture arrives.”

Fire managers base decisions about fire restrictions on specific moisture measurements in vegetation and other risk factors such as predicted weather and the amount of current fire activity. The following Stage 1 Fire Restrictions will be enforced on all White River National Forest and BLM lands within the Colorado River Valley Field Office:

- Campfires are only allowed within designated fire grates within 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, are allowed outside of developed areas, except fires that are maintained or attended within a device that has a spark arrestor and where the fire is fully enclosed at all times such as a shepherd type stove or petroleum-fueled stove
- No smoking except within and enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or in a barren area at least three feet in diameter.
- No welding or operation of an acetylene or other similar torch with open flame except in an area that has been cleared of vegetation ten feet on all sides.
- No operation of any internal combustion engine without a spark arresting device properly installed and in working order.
- Fireworks, exploding targets or other types of explosives are always prohibited on all national forest and BLM lands.

- Fire restrictions on these lands will be in place until further notice. Those found responsible for starting wildfires may face criminal prosecution and paying restitution costs for suppressing the fire.

For more information about fire restrictions in these areas, go to: https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2gjc/fireinfo_restrictions/index.html or visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/whiteriver/alerts-notices> .