



BLM NEWS RELEASE

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For

Immediate Release

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BLM Implements additional “Fire Restrictions” for Phoenix Area Public Lands

(PHOENIX, AZ., May 20, 2014)—The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will implement additional fire restrictions on May 23rd, the fire restrictions will help to reduce the risk of wildfire on public lands north and south of Phoenix, Arizona.

Fire Restrictions are necessary due to lack of winter rain high temperatures and low humidity creating conditions for rapid spread of wild fires. BLM will continue to monitor conditions for the need to increase fire restrictions. People who enjoy public lands north and south of Phoenix can reduce the risk of fire by practicing safety and strictly adhering to these “fire restrictions and fire prevention safety tips:”

1. Do not build or use a fire, campfire, charcoal broiler or wood stove. Use of propane and petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns or heating devices is currently allowed.
2. No smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building a developed recreation site/improved site or while stopped in an area at least 10 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.
3. Discharging a firearm, air rifle, exploding targets or gas gun except while engaged in a lawful hunt pursuant to state, federal or tribal laws and regulations.
4. Be aware that driving off-road over dry grass could ignite a fire; be sure that all vehicles and tires are in excellent working order; chains or other recreational equipment must not drag or dangle from the truck or trailer to the ground; secure all recreational equipment; it’s always a good idea to carry a fire extinguisher.
5. Fireworks are never allowed on federal public lands.

Fire restrictions are in effect until further notice for all public lands administrated by the BLM Phoenix District – including popular areas such as the Agua Fria National Monument, the Table Mesa Recreation Area, Boulders Staging Camp Ground north of Phoenix, the Back Country Byways west of Phoenix, the Sonoran Desert National Monument, Saddle Mountain Recreation Area, and the Painted Rock Petroglyph site, southwest of Phoenix, and all wilderness areas. Violation of these Fire Restrictions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000, or imprisonment of not more than 12 months, or both (43 CFR 9212.4).

Fire restrictions for public lands may vary in other counties or jurisdictions in Arizona depending on the level of fire danger and may be accessed at: www.firerestrictions.us/az/ or for information on fire prevention tips and restrictions in your area, contact your local BLM office, or visit BLM’s website at www.az.blm.gov.

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The BLM manages more land - over 245 million acres - than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.