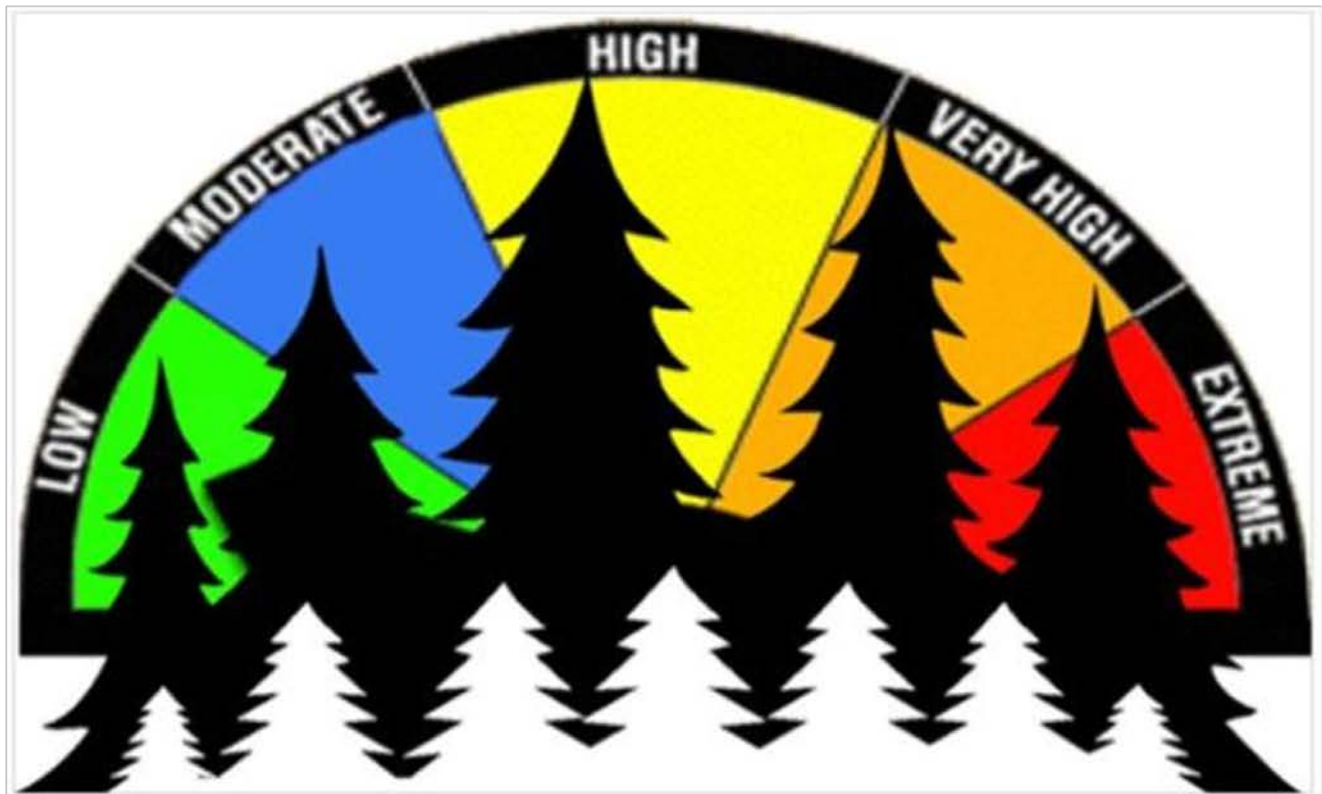


# Southwest Interagency Fire Restrictions and Closure Master Operating Plan



2014



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## PURPOSE

The purpose of fire restrictions is to reduce human-caused fires during periods of unusually high fire danger and/or burning conditions. Fire restrictions impose many limitations on the public, and therefore should be implemented only after all other prevention measures have been taken. These measures include, but are not limited to: increasing the number of prevention signs, public contacts, media campaigns, etc. Fire restrictions should be considered when high to extreme fire danger is predicted to persist. Other considerations are the level of human-caused fire occurrences being experienced, firefighting resources available, potential high-risk occasions (4th of July, etc.), and large fire activity occurring on a unit or within the Region. Fire restrictions should not be considered the primary prevention program and all other alternatives should be taken prior to considering fire restrictions.

Emergency closures have an extreme impact on the public and fire agencies, and are discouraged except under the most severe conditions. Closures are not justified by fire danger alone, but should be driven by the potential for risk to life safety due to extreme fire behavior, high potential for human-caused fires, severe shortages of resources, and numerous large fires.

## AUTHORITY

Fire restrictions and closures are invoked on state, federal, tribal trust and private lands under federal, state, local and tribal laws (APPENDIX 1: AUTHORITIES). Agency Administrators/Tribal Chairpersons are responsible for coordinating with other agencies/tribes, issuing appropriate documents and enforcing of restrictions and closures for those lands on which they have authority (APPENDIX 2: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES).

Agencies/tribes are responsible for incorporating the geographic guidelines into their appropriate policy and procedures manuals. Restrictions and closure procedures shall be uniform across individual zones and the geographic area.

The SWCG Operating Plan for Fire Restriction and Closure Procedures tiers from the *Arizona Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement signed 8/31/09* and the *New Mexico Wildland Fire Management Joint Powers Master Agreement signed 04/02/08*.

## COORDINATION ZONES

For the ease of implementation and coordination, the Southwest Geographic Area will be divided into nine fire restriction and closure coordination zones (APPENDIX 3: RESTRICTION COORDINATION ZONE BOUNDARIES). Zones are consistent with established Coordination Zone boundaries in each state. Managers and Agency Administrators/Tribal Chairpersons within the zones will have the flexibility to decide how much of the zone needs to be placed in or out of a specific restriction stage or closure. If conditions do not warrant restrictions or closures throughout the whole zone, then only that portion of the zone meeting critical levels should be placed under restrictions or closures. Areas of restriction or closure must be easily recognizable by the public.

## PROCESS FOR FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Every spring, the SWCG Prevention and Information Committee Members, in consultation with their respective Zones Agency Administrators/Tribal Chairpersons, law enforcement personnel, fire managers, and public information personnel, will review and validate the restriction and closure plan and applicable agency/tribal documents. All press releases, descriptions of general fire restrictions and stages, and other necessary agency/tribal documents should be available in template format before the start of the fire season.

## ***Initiation***

As conditions within an area approach threshold levels, cooperators should begin planning for the initiation of fire restrictions. These threshold levels should be determined by all wildland agencies/tribes in the area before the onset of fire season. It is recommended that each coordination zone have a Zone Restriction and Closures Plan in which these thresholds and guidelines are identified. [Appendix 4: Zone Restriction and Closure Plan Template](#). The planning process for restrictions should include a public awareness campaign, keeping the media and public informed of the possibility of restrictions. The Zone Restriction Coordinator, who is chosen by the Agency Administrators/Tribal Chairpersons and/or delegated representative within the zone, should coordinate all restriction actions (Appendix 2). The Zone Restriction Coordinator will initiate discussion with the zone fire managers, and coordinate the process with the adjacent zone restriction coordinators. Concerted efforts will be made to simultaneously initiate restriction/recessions; however it is understood there will be circumstances identified in which consistency across the zone will not be possible. This decision process should be started early enough so all agencies/tribes in the zone have time to plan, properly distribute the restriction documents, and notify the public. Restrictions and closures should be initiated earlier in the week so that the public can be well informed before they make recreation plans for the weekend.

Upon evaluation of area conditions and considerations, and zone fire managers determine that restrictions are needed in all or most of the zone, they will inform their respective Agency Administrator/Tribal Chairpersons, Fire Prevention Officers, Public Affairs/Public Information officers, Law Enforcement/Special Agents, and Adjoining Fire Restriction Coordination Zones that the thresholds for implementing fire restrictions have been reached. All agencies and tribes will coordinate the restriction stages, implementation and rescissions, and timing of media releases.

## ***Implementation***

Each Agency Administrator/Tribal Chairperson and/or delegated representative will be responsible for assuring that their agency documents are completed and signed. .

The Zone Board Chair and/or the Zone Restriction Coordinator will document restriction and closure decisions using the SW Area Fire Restriction and Closure Decision Checklist (**Error! Reference source not found.**). It is recommended that each agency/tribal representative to the coordination zone complete Section 2 of the checklist for their respective agency/tribe prior to each call or meeting. This will facilitate dialog in developing consistency among zone members and allow the Zone Board Chair and/or Zone Restrictions Coordinator to more accurately document the process.

The Zone Restriction Coordinator and the Zone Restrictions Website Editor will work with area media coordinators, public affairs and/or public information officers on public notification. Each Zone will have an identified media and public communications process. If a formal Restrictions and Closures Plan has been developed in the Zone the process and a list of relative contacts should be documented in the plan.

When implemented, the restriction media release must be clear, concise, and understandable to the public. Each agency/tribe will post signs and notifications, according to their procedures and regulations, to inform the public of the restrictions.

Once a restriction is in effect, participating agencies/tribes will not issue exemptions, exceptions, or waivers to the agreed-upon restrictions except through written individual permits or, in the case of industrial operations, where specific operations and exemptions are identified and mitigation measures are implemented as outlined in an agency plan. If permits are issued, affected agencies/tribes within the fire restriction zone will be notified to avoid confusion among law enforcement and fire personnel.

Each agency/tribe will be responsible for informing their employees of the restrictions being enacted. Those responsible for public contact (receptionists, etc.) will be provided with a copy of the restrictions and appropriate map.

**Rescissions**

Zones should plan restrictions for the long-term danger. When Agency Administrators/Tribal Chairpersons and/or delegated representative agree that the restriction should be removed, the Zone Restriction Coordinator will coordinate public information as conditions warrant.

**PROCESS FOR CLOSURES**

When fire danger/behavior threatens firefighter and public safety, the State/Regional/Tribal Agency Administrators can implement large-scale closures. These large-scale closures may involve multiple areas and/or multiple jurisdictions. Implementation, rescission, and public notification of these closures will occur at the state/regional/tribal level.

Administrative Unit closures covering a small area will be used when safety of the public and/or firefighters is a concern. These closures are typically warranted when there is an ongoing incident and/or extreme fire conditions. The closures should be coordinated and all agencies/tribes within the Zone and adjacent Zones should be informed. Exemptions to incident related closures will be authorized by the local Agency Administrator/Tribal Chairperson and/or the Incident Commander.

## APPENDIX 1: AUTHORITIES

Fire restrictions and closures can be invoked on state, federal, tribal, and private lands under federal, tribal and state laws. The following are a reference of those authorities. Note: Each agency may have enacted more specific and or restrictive orders relative to their needs and authorities at the local level.

### Forest Service

*For Closures*

36 CFR 261.52(e) – *Going into or being upon an area*

*For Restrictions*

36, CFR 261.50 – *Fire*

*General that applies to both restrictions and closures*

16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559 and 3571 – *Violation/Penalties*

36 CFR 261.51 – *Posting Requirements*

### Bureau of Land Management

*Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701, et seq.),*

*Sections 302(b) and 301(a) 43, CFR, Part 9210 (Fire Management) 43, CFR, Part 9212 (Wildfire Prevention)*

### National Park Service

*Campfires - 36 CFR 2.13 (c)*

*Smoking - 36 CFR 2.21 (a)*

*Fireworks - 36 CFR 2.38 (b)*

*Penalties - 36 CFR 1.5 (a) (1), 1.5 (a) (2), and 1.3 (a)*

### Fish and Wildlife Service

*A. Protection Act of September 20, 1922 (42 Stat. 857; 16 U.S.C. 594) Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to protect, from fire, lands under his/her jurisdiction and to cooperate with other Federal agencies, States, or owners of timber.*

*D. National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 and the Refuge Recreation Act of 1962.(80 Stat. 927)(16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee)(16 U.S.C. 460k-460k4). Governs the administration and use of the National Wildlife Refuge System.*

*G. Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of October 29, 1974 et seq. (88 Stat. 1535; 15 U.S.C. 2201) as amended. Authorizes reimbursement to State and local fire services for costs incurred in firefighting on Federal property.*

*Sections 302(b) and 301(a) 43, CFR, Part 9210 (Fire Management) 43, CFR, Part 9212 (Wildfire Prevention)*

### Bureau of Indian Affairs

*Forest restrictions and closures are issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Agency Superintendent under authority established in: 25 CFR-Indians, Most Tribes will issue their own restrictions, bans and closures independent of the Agency. Check with the individual Tribe regarding restrictions before traveling to that Reservation.*

## State of Arizona

*Pursuant to Arizona Statutes Section 37-623 paragraph B (37-623. Suppression of wildfires; powers and duties of state forester; entry on private lands)*

*A. The state forester shall have authority to prevent and suppress any wildfires on state and private lands located outside incorporated municipalities and, if subject to cooperative agreements, on other lands located in this state or in other states, Mexico or Canada. If there is no cooperative agreement, the state forester may furnish wildfire suppression services on any lands in this state if the state forester determines that suppression services are in the best interests of this state and are immediately necessary to protect state lands.*

*B. In exercising the authority to prevent wildfires, if the state forester declares a prohibition on fire causing activities and fireworks, the state forester shall post a notice of the action in the office of the secretary of state and shall notify the news media. The notice shall clearly state which types of activities are prohibited, where they are prohibited and whether permits that are issued by other governmental entities are affected by the action.*

## State of New Mexico

*Pursuant to New Mexico Statutes Annotated, Section 68-2-16, and other sections of the Forest Conservation Act, NMSA 1978, Section 68-2-1 to 68-2-25, and 19.20.3 NMAC*

***RESTRICTIONS:*** *Whenever warranted by climatic conditions, drought, fire danger, fire frequency, fire behavior or other factors affecting danger of forest fire, the state forester may order restrictions or closures which place limitations on the use of fire or order the immediate extinguishment of fires to help reduce the potential of forest fires as follows:*

*A. Smoking, Campfires, Open Fires or Equipment Usage: Restrictions on smoking, campfires or open fires may be imposed in specifically defined areas. Use of logging equipment or other equipment increasing the risk of forest fire may also be limited to specified hours of operation on state and private land.*

*(1) Smoking may be restricted to designated areas, within structures or within vehicles equipped with ashtrays while on paved or surfaced roads. Open fires or campfires may be restricted to developed campgrounds or in areas designated in writing by the landowner and chimneys of wood burning stoves must be equipped with approved spark arresters; access to land is not limited.*

*(2) Use of logging equipment may be limited to specified hours of operation by the division.*

*(3) The state forester may allow exceptions to these restrictions with written notification.*

*B. Closure: Closures will be imposed in specifically defined areas when widespread drought conditions, extreme fire danger, fire frequency, fire behavior and other factors exist within an area of the state that pose a threat to public safety, life, property and the natural resources of the state. All open fires, open burning and operation of equipment (i.e., chainsaws, cutting torches, welders, etc.) are prohibited without the prior written approval of the state forester. Access to private lands is limited to landowners and persons with the landowner's written permission.*

## APPENDIX 2: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### Agency Administrator and/or Tribal Chairperson

1. **State/Regional** Agency Administrator/Tribal Chairperson is responsible for the following:
  - Delegating a lead state/regional agency representative responsible for facilitating the decision-making and implementation process as well as any responsibilities identified below. Often Southwest Coordinating Group member.
  - Incorporating SWCG guidelines into agency policy and procedures manuals.
  - Ensuring that SWCG has the support, they need to perform successfully.
  - Ensuring the Zone Agency Administrators consistently implement restrictions procedures as described in this document.
  - Coordinating the implementation, rescission, and public notification of restrictions on a large-scale basis.
  - Coordinating the implementation, rescission, and public notification of closures on a large-scale basis.
  
2. **Local** Agency Administrator/Tribal Chairperson is responsible for the following:
  - Delegating a lead local agency administrator representative responsible for facilitating the decision-making and implementation process as well as any responsibilities identified below. Often Zone Board member.
  - Following and endorsing the SWCG Restriction Guidelines.
  - Selecting a zone restriction /closure coordinator.
  - Developing a Zone Restrictions and Closure Plan.
  - Ensuring that the restriction coordinator has the necessary tools to perform successfully.
  - Ensuring that agency restriction documents are accurate and approved through their legal counsel.
  - Ensuring that their agency follows all measures stated in their restrictions document.
  - Monitoring the success of the enacted restriction and providing timely feedback to the zone restrictions coordinator.

### Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG)

SWCG is responsible for:

- Developing and maintaining the Restriction and Closure procedures in coordination with each respective agency administrator/tribal chairperson.
- Ensuring that training is provided to agency administrators, agency personnel and cooperators.
- Providing Geographic Restrictions Coordinators.

### Geographic Restriction Coordinator(s)

Geographic Restrictions Coordinators for Arizona and New Mexico are responsible for:

- Facilitating the restrictions implementation and rescission process on a geographic basis.
- Monitoring restrictions activity across all areas of responsibility.
- Providing an assessment of conditions and issues to the State/Regional Agency Administrators/Tribal Chairperson and/or delegated representative.
- Coordinating the need for large-scale closures across all agencies.
- Maintaining a geographic website for restrictions and closures information.
- Forward completed Restrictions and Closure Decision Checklist to the SWCG
- Serve as a backup for Zone Restriction Coordinators in their respective states.

### Zone Board Chair(s)

The Zone Board Chairs are responsible for:

- Promotes interagency participation for fire restriction coordination among the Restriction Zone Interagency Partners
- Keeps the Zone Agency Administrators and/or delegated representatives informed and elevates issues of concern to the Geographic Restriction Coordinator and/or the SWCG.
- Works with interagency partners on appointing the Zone Restriction Coordinator.
- Provides guidance to the Zone Restriction Coordinator.



**Zone Board Member(s)**

The Zone Board is comprised of delegated representatives from each respective agency/tribe within the coordination zone, often agency fire managers.

**Zone Restriction Coordinator**

This position is appointed by the Zone Board and would rotate at the agreed upon interval to distribute the workload among cooperators.

The Zone Restriction Coordinator is responsible for:

- Facilitating the restrictions implementation process
- Gathering all information needed from each cooperator needed to make informed decisions. Monitoring fire activity, ERC levels as well as prevention efforts.
- Communicating and coordinating with neighboring areas on their restriction and closure activity.
- Monitoring and gathering information for timely rescission of orders.
- Coordinating with and providing guidance to the Zone Website Editor(s)
- Submit Fire Restriction and Closure Checklist to the Geographic Restriction Coordinator.

**Zone Website Editor(s)**

The Zone Board may appoint one or more individuals as website editor. The Zone Restrictions Coordinator may also serve in this role but should have up to 2 alternates identified to perform this function. The individual(s) will be granted edit access to the National Fire Restrictions Website and are responsible for:

- Coordinating with the Zone Restrictions Coordinator
- Gathering data, fire restriction orders, press releases and website links/contact information for each agency/tribal council within the coordination zone.
- Posting of restriction and closure information on the National Fire Restrictions website according to regional standards
- Coordinating with State Restriction Coordinator and providing documentation as needed/requested.

**APPENDIX 3: RESTRICTION COORDINATION ZONE BOUNDARIES**

Specific detailed map information can be found at: <http://firerestrictions.us/> and by clicking on the area of interest.

**Central West Arizona Zone Includes:**

**AZ ST-**Phoenix District, Arizona State Forestry Division

**BIA-** Colorado River Agency & Fort Yuma Agency, Pima Agency, San Carlos Agency, Salt River Agency

**BLM-** Kingman Field Office, Lake Havasu Field Office, Yuma Field Office, Phoenix District Office

**FS-** Prescott NF, Tonto NF

**FWS-** Bill Williams NWR, Cibola NWR, Havasu NWR, Imperial NWR, Kofa NWR

**NPS-** Tonto National Monument

**Northern Arizona Zone Includes:**

**AZ ST-**Flagstaff District, Arizona State Forestry Division

**BIA-**Navajo Regional Office, Hopi Agency, Truxton Canyon Agency, Southern Paiute Agency

**BLM-** Arizona Strip (Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument), Colorado River District (Kingman Field Office)

**FS-** Coconino NF, Kaibab NF

**NPS-** Grand Canyon National Park, Flagstaff Area Monuments (Sunset Crater, Walnut Canyon, and Wupatki National Monuments), Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, , Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments Canyon De Chelley NM, Glen Canyon NRA, Hubble Trading Post NHS, Lake Mead NRA, Navajo NM, and Pipe Spring NM

**Southeast Arizona Zone Includes:**

**AZ ST-**Tucson District, Arizona State Forestry Division

**BIA-**Tohono O'odham Nation

**BLM-**Safford Field Office, Tucson Field Office

**FS-** Coronado NF

**NPS-** Saguaro National Park, Southeast Arizona Group (Coronado National Memorial, Chiricahua National Monument, Fort Bowie National Historic Site), Tumacacori National Historic Park, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Casa Grande Ruins National Monument

**White Mountain Zone Includes:**

**AZ ST-**Flagstaff District, Arizona State Forestry Division

**BIA-**Fort Apache Agency

**FS-** Apache/Sitgreaves NF

**NPS -** Petrified Forest National Park

Specific detailed map information can be found at: <http://firerestrictions.us/> and by clicking on the area of interest.

**Albuquerque Zone Includes:**

**BIA**-Laguna Agency ,Ramah Navajo Agency, Southern Pueblos Agency, Zuni Agency

**BLM**-Albuquerque Field Office

**FS**- Cibola NF

**FWS**- Fruila NWR, Bosque del Apache NWR, San Andres NWR, Sevilleta NWR

**NM ST**-Bernalillo District

**NPS**-El Malpais and El Morro National Monuments, Petroglyph National Monument, Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument, Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

**Gila-Las Cruces Zone Includes:**

**BLM**- Las Cruces District Office, Socorro Field Office

**FS**- Gila NF

**NM ST**-Socorro District

**NPS**-Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument

**Pecos Zone Includes:**

**BIA**-Mescalero Agency

**BLM**-Roswell Field office, Carlsbad Field Office

**FS**- Lincoln NF

**FWS**-Bitter Lake NWR

**NM ST**-Capitan District

**NPS**-Carlsbad Caverns National Park, White Sands National Monument, Fort Davis National Historic Site, Chamizal National Memorial, Amistad National Recreation Area, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Big Bend National Park

**Santa Fe Zone Includes:**

**BIA**-Northern Pueblo Agency, Jicarilla Agency

**BLM**- New Mexico State Office, Albuquerque Field Office,

**DOE**-LANL

**FS**- Santa Fe NF (includes Valles Caldera Trust),

**FWS**-Las Vegas NWR,

**NM ST**-NM State Office, Las Vegas District, and the Bernalillo District

**NPS**-Bandelier National Monument, Fort Union National Monument, Pecos National Historic Park

**Taos Zone Includes:**

**BIA** - Northern Pueblo Agency, Jicarilla Agency

**BLM** Taos Field Office, Farmington District Office

**FS**- Carson NF

**FWS**- Maxwell NWR

**NM ST** Cimarron District, Chama District

**NPS** - Aztec Ruins National Monument, Capulin Volcano National monument, Chaco Culture National Historic Park

**APPENDIX 4: ZONE RESTRICTIONS AND CLOSURE PLAN TEMPLATE - [Optional]**

[Zone Restriction and Closure Plan Template](#)

## **APPENDIX 5: GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTING RESTRICTIONS**

Fire restriction threshold criteria are derived from the Restriction Coordination Zones Interagency NFDRS Operating Plans as they become available. If an Operating Plan is not available, each agency should follow the criteria within their respective Fire Management Plans or other decision support documents.

Zone representatives for each agency within the Zone should assess criteria and have conversations with their Fire Management Officers, Agency Administrators, and Public Affairs Specialists/Public Information Offices prior to each Zone Board meeting; and come ready to share where your agency stands regarding fire restrictions and closures.

Zone Chairs will use the Southwest Agency Fire Restrictions and Closures Coordination Form to facilitate interagency conversations, coordinate, and capture restriction and closure decisions during each meeting.

The Southwest Area Fire Restrictions and Closures Coordination Form can be downloaded from:  
[http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/management\\_admin/policy\\_reports/policy\\_reports.htm](http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/management_admin/policy_reports/policy_reports.htm).

## Restrictions and Closures Coordination Form

When weather factors or fire suppression impacts become a concern, the following questions (Section 1) should be asked to help determine if a restriction is justified. Before the fire season, each area should review these evaluation guidelines to help determine threshold levels that substantiate the need for each restriction.

Each Agency Representative to the Zone Board will come ready to share information found in Section 1 for their respective agency. A representative of the Zone will compile information from the zone and complete Sections 1 and Section 2, email this form to [dagarcia@blm.gov](mailto:dagarcia@blm.gov) for Arizona, and \_\_\_\_\_ for New Mexico.

Zone Board Representatives will ensure that their Zone Restriction Coordinator gets an electronic PDF copy of each agency's fire restriction and/or closure order, news release and agency's public contact information for posting online at [www.firerestrictions.us](http://www.firerestrictions.us).

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# Southwest Area Fire Restrictions and Closures Coordination Form

## SECTION 1:

### 1. What is the predicted fire potential for the next several weeks?

- Is the Southwest Area 7 Day Significant Fire Potential Outlook showing consistently 'Very Dry' fuels (brown color) or more than one 'High Risk' day (orange or red color) per week?  
 YES       NO
- Is the Southwest Area Monthly Outlook showing 'Above Normal' Significant Fire Potential (red color) over or near the unit(s) under consideration?  
 YES       NO

<http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/predictive/outlooks/outlooks.htm>

### 2. Is there an increase in number of fire starts within the Zone?

- # of Human Starts [H] : \_\_\_\_\_ Major Cause Category: \_\_\_\_\_
- # of Natural Starts [N] : \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. What is the daily fire occurrence situation?

- Are there multiple starts?  
 YES       NO
- Are fire occurrences and associated control problems increasing or decreasing?  
 INCREASING       DECREASING

### 4. Are adequate fire resources available by Agency/Zone?

YES       NO

If no, what are the resource needs:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Are severity resources or funds requested and/or approved for local/zone agencies?

YES       NO

### 6. Is an increase/decrease in recreational visitor days, i.e., holidays and special events, expected?

YES       NO  
If yes, example:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 7. Are social, political or economic impacts expected?

YES       NO  
If yes, example:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 8. Are there preparations for the next phase, whether that would be a higher level of restrictions, closures, or rescissions of an order?

YES       NO  
If yes, explain:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Notes or Remarks:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### [1] Have the following individuals been contacted concerning area fire restrictions?

- Agency Administrators: \_\_\_\_\_
- Public Affairs/Public Information Officers: \_\_\_\_\_
- Law Enforcement/Special Agents: \_\_\_\_\_
- Fire Prevention Officers: \_\_\_\_\_
- Adjoining Zone(s) Board Chairs: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Zone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 2:**

Agency	Representative(s)	7 Day Outlook Very Dry?	Fire Starts	Occurrence or Control Problems	Daily Fire Occurrence	Adequate Fire Resources	Severity Funding	Visitor Use Increase, Holiday, Special Event?	Political/Social Impacts	Fire Restriction Level	Effective Date	<sup>1</sup> Notifications Made
BLM		Yes	H:	Yes	Increasing	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	None		Yes
		No	N:	No	Decreasing	No	Requested	No	No	Local Burn Ban		No
USFS		Yes	H:	Yes	Increasing	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	None		Yes
		No	N:	No	Decreasing	No	Requested	No	No	S 1 [General]		No
BIA		Yes	H:	Yes	Increasing	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	None		Yes
		No	N:	No	Decreasing	No	Requested	No	No	S 1 [General]		No
STATE		Yes	H:	Yes	Increasing	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	None		Yes
		No	N:	No	Decreasing	No	Requested	No	No	S 1 [General]		No
NPS		Yes	H:	Yes	Increasing	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	None		Yes
		No	N:	No	Decreasing	No	Requested	No	No	S 1 [General]		No
FWS		Yes	H:	Yes	Increasing	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	None		Yes
		No	N:	No	Decreasing	No	Requested	No	No	S 1 [General]		No

Notes or Remarks:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Submitted By:

\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> **Notifications Made:** Each agency representative has coordinated with internal and external stakeholders concerning fire restrictions and closures. Key stakeholders include: Fire Prevention Officers, Public Affairs/Information Officers, Law Enforcement/Special Agents, Agency Administrators, and neighboring agencies.



## APPENDIX 6: RESTRICTION LANGUAGE AND CLOSURE GUIDELINES

There will be two fire restriction levels: Stage I(General) and Stage II(Elevated). Each agency/tribe within a fire restriction zones must write its own agency/tribal document that authorizes the restrictions within its jurisdiction. A unit can decide to go into Stage II/Elevated Restrictions without first going into Stage I/General Restrictions. This can be done to facilitate ease of implementation and enforcement in more complex heavily populated areas or due to an agency's fire restriction laws and regulations. Each agency/tribe is responsible for using its own format and having their legal counsel review the document to assure it is correct and enforceable.

When providing information to post to the National Fire Restrictions website, agency representatives should determine which of the 3 levels [colors] best matches their level of restriction. A statute or regulation is not required and may not reference or utilize "Stage", however level [color] chosen for the website map should best represent the conditions and the activities being restricted within the area the agency oversees. This information will be shared with the Zone Restrictions Coordinator and the Zone Website Editor.

To reduce confusion and standardize the restrictions, the following criteria should be used in all restriction documents.

**Baseline Fire Restrictions:** Baseline Fire Restrictions are the standard restrictions that are always in effect as determined by a management unit's year round orders or an agencies laws and regulations. Baseline fire restrictions can be agency and management unit specific and will be listed in the unit's specific restriction order or in the Restriction coordination Area level operating plan.

Discharging, or using any kind of fireworks, tracer ammunition, exploding targets or other incendiary devices in any location on Federal Lands is always prohibited. Approved spark arresting device is required for all internal combustion engines on federal lands.

Discharging, or using any tracer ammunition, exploding targets in any location on Arizona State Trust Lands are prohibited. Discharging or using any kind of fireworks for commercial ventures, or other incendiary devices would require permission through permits with the Arizona State Land Department. The discharging or using any kind of fireworks and incendiary devices would be prohibited under Stage I and Stage II Restrictions and closures.

Discharging, or using any kind of fireworks, tracer ammunition, exploding targets or other incendiary devices in any location on Tribal Trust Lands are prohibited under Stage I and Stage II Restrictions and closures.

New Mexico State Forestry will always go directly into Limiting Open Burning when entering into fire restrictions on New Mexico State and Private Lands. New Mexico State Trust Lands, NM State Park Lands and Lands Managed by the NM Game Commission may follow the Stages when they are adjacent to or surrounded by Federal Lands

### STAGE I (GENERAL)

The following acts are prohibited until further notice:

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal, or wood stove other than in a developed campsite or picnic area listed in the order.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site/improved site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.
3. **For Tonto National Forest administered lands under Stage I Restrictions,** Discharging a firearm except while engaged in a lawful hunt pursuant to state, federal or tribal laws and regulations.

Note: each agency/tribe must cite their actual regulations/laws; therefore the wording for the prohibition may be slightly different. Exemptions may vary according to specific agency laws and regulations.

**Stage I Exemptions:**

1. Persons with a written permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act.
2. Persons using a device solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off. Such devices can only be used in an area that is barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding flammable materials within 3 feet of the device.
3. Persons conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice.
4. Any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
5. All land within a city boundary is exempted unless otherwise stated in city ordinance.
6. Other exemptions unique to each agency/tribe.

An exemption does not absolve an individual or organization from liability or responsibility for any fire started by the exempted activity.

**STAGE II (ELEVATED)**

The following acts are prohibited until further notice:

1. Building maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal, or wood stove including fires in developed campgrounds or improved sites.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building.
3. Discharging a firearm except while engaged in a lawful hunt pursuant to state, federal, or tribal laws and regulations.
4. Mechanical and Industrial Prohibitions
  - a. Operating any internal combustion engine.
  - b. Welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame.
  - c. Using an explosive.

Note: each agency/tribe must cite their actual regulations/laws; therefore the wording for the prohibition may be slightly different. Exemptions may vary according to specific agency laws and regulations.

**Stage II Exemptions:**

1. Persons with a written permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act. This process can be utilized in cases where public works and public utility emergency repairs are necessary.
2. Industrial operations where specific operations and exemptions are identified and mitigation measures are implemented as outlined in an agency plan.
3. Persons using a device fueled solely by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off. Such devices can only be used in an area that is barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding flammable materials within 3 feet of the device.
4. Operating generators with an approved spark arresting device within an enclosed vehicle or building or in an area that is barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding flammable materials within three feet of the generator.

5. Operating motorized vehicles on designated roads so long as you park in an area devoid of vegetation within 10 feet of the roadway.
6. Persons conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice.
7. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force or other authorized personnel in the performance of an official duty.
8. All land within a city boundary is exempted unless otherwise stated by city ordinance.
9. Other exemptions unique to each agency/tribe.
10. Discharging of firearms is allowed on agency designated shooting ranges.

An exemption does not absolve an individual or organization from liability or responsibility for any fire started by the exempted activity.

### **CLOSURE GUIDELINES**

The Geographic Agency Administrators within the Southwest Area should review these evaluation guidelines and determine threshold levels that substantiate the need for closures.

#### **Examples include:**

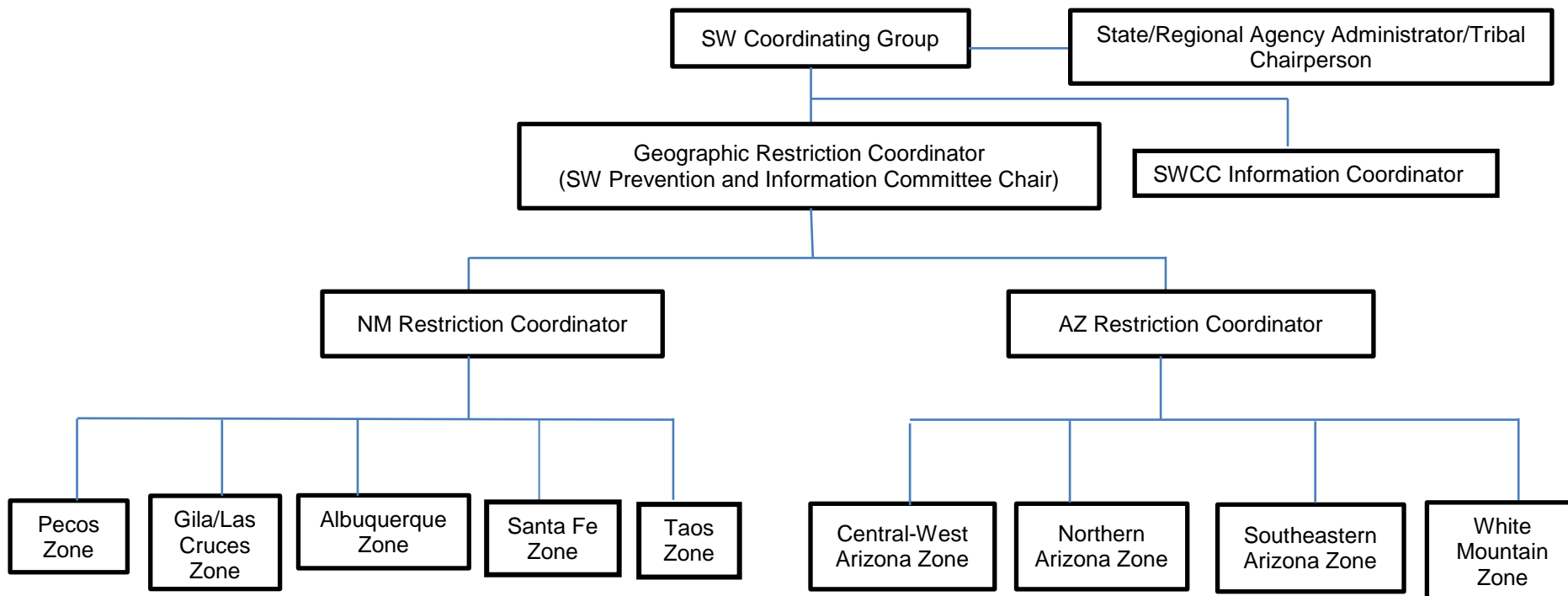
- Potential loss of life due to extreme fire conditions.
- High potential for extreme fire behavior.
- Level II restrictions are not effective in reducing the number of human-caused fires.
- Resources across the geographic area are at a critical shortage level.

The following standard exemptions will be allowed during closure and will be noted on all closure documents.

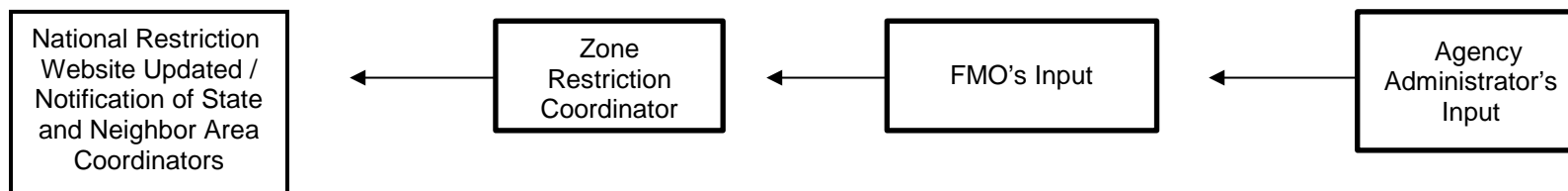
#### **Closure Exemptions:**

1. Persons with a written permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act.
2. Persons conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice.
3. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force or other authorized personnel in the performance of an official duty.
4. All land within a city boundary is exempted unless otherwise stated in city ordinance.
5. Other exemptions unique to each agency/tribe.

**APPENDIX 7: SW AREA FLOW CHART FOR FIRE RESTRICTION COORDINATION**



Each Restriction Coordination Zone will appoint a Zone Restriction Coordinator that will be responsible for restriction information flow from the Area Cooperators to the National Restrictions Website, State Restriction Coordinators and Neighboring Restriction Zones.



## APPENDIX 8: DEFINITIONS

The following definitions should be used as part of, or referenced to, in the restrictions/closure documents that initiate and authorize a Stage I (General) or Stage II (Elevated) Restriction:

**Local Agency Administrator/Tribal Chairperson:** Field unit agency officials who have jurisdictional responsibilities for Agency lands within a designated restriction and closure area.

**Baseline Fire Restrictions:** Baseline Fire Restrictions are the standard restrictions that are always in effect on all areas as determined by a management unit's year round orders or an agencies laws and regulations. Baseline fire restriction may vary between Units and Restriction Coordination Zones dependent on the frequency and causal factors of unwanted human starts specific to that unit.

**Campfire:** A fire, not within any building, mobile home, or living accommodation mounted on a vehicle, which is used for cooking, branding, personal warmth, lighting, ceremonial, or aesthetic purposes. Campfires are open fires, usually built on the ground, from native fuels or charcoal, including charcoal grills.

**Closure:** The closing of an area to entry or use.

**Designated Roads and Trails:** Those roads and trails that are identified to the public by land management agencies.

**Exemption:** Authorization allowing an otherwise prohibited act or omission.

**Emergency Repair:** Those actions taken outside the routine to prevent the start of a fire or restore critical resources. These repairs are conducted under the authority of an agency approved plan or a written permit issued by the Agency Administrator/Tribal Chairperson that authorizes the otherwise prohibited act.

**Explosive:** Any substance or article, including a device, which is designed to function by explosion (i.e., an extremely rapid release of gas and heat) or which, by chemical reaction within itself, is able to function in a similar manner even if not designed to function by explosion. For the purposes of these restrictions, firearms are not considered an explosive.

**State/Regional Agency Administrator/Tribal Chairperson:** Agency officials at the statewide or regional level who have jurisdictional responsibilities for agency lands.

**Internal Combustion Engine:** An engine in which combustion of the fuel takes place in a confined space, producing expanding gases that are used directly to provide mechanical power.

**Permit:** A written document issued by an authorized agency representative to specifically authorize an otherwise prohibited act.

**Public Utilities:** A government-regulated company that provides an essential public service such as water, gas, electricity, or telecommunications.

**Restriction:** A limitation on an activity or use.

## APPENDIX 9: SAMPLE AREA CLOSURE COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

### Objectives

- A. Inform the internal and external audiences that closures are in place.
- B. Maintain or enhance the credibility of agency managers in providing for public safety, resources, property, and firefighter safety.
- C. Maintain or enhance cooperative relationships among affected agencies.
- D. Emphasize the areas that are OPEN to minimize impact to economy.
- E. Keep the message alive until closures are lifted.
- F. Maintain excellent documentation.

### Internal Contacts

- A. Aviation and Fire Management
  - Fire Operations
  - Fuels Management/Prevention
- B. Law Enforcement and Investigations
  - Special Agent in Charge
  - Chief Ranger
  - Law Enforcement Rangers
- C. C. Range, Recreation, Wilderness and Heritage Staff
- D. D. External Affairs and Congressional Liaisons
- E. E. Contracting and Acquisition Management
- F. Oil, Gas and Minerals
  - Geologists
- G. Land Special Uses
  - Grants and Special Uses
- H. Timber
  - Timber Sales Administration
- I. Office of the General Counsel or Solicitor

### External Contacts

[Identified and the Zone and Agency Level.]

**SIGNATORIES**

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**Leon Ben, Jr.**  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Western Regional Office

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Date

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**Hector Madrid**  
Bureau of Land Management  
New Mexico State Office

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Date

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**Donald Griego**  
New Mexico State Forestry Division

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Date

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**Cal Pino**  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Southwest Regional Office

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Date

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**David Geyer**  
Arizona State Forestry Division

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Date

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**Loren DeRosear**  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Date

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**Kelly Castillo**  
Bureau of Land Management  
Arizona State Office

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Date

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**Dale Glenmore**  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Navajo Regional Office

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Date

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**Judy Palmer**  
U.S. Forest Service  
Southwestern Regional Office

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Date

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**Brent Woffinden**  
National Park Service  
Intermountain Regional Office

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Date