



Arizona State Forestry Division
Bureau of Indian Affairs: Southwest, Navajo, Western Regions
Bureau of Land Management: Arizona, New Mexico
National Park Service, Intermountain Region
New Mexico State Forestry Division
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2
U. S. Forest Service



Date: February 25, 2013
To: Zone Board Chairs, Agency FMO's and Administrators
From: Chair, Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG)
Subject: Southwest Interagency Fire Restriction and Closure Program

The SWCG tasked the SWCG Prevention and Information Subcommittee to develop an interagency fire restriction and closure program for the Southwest Geographic Area. A development team composed of interagency representatives was appointed and has been working on the development of the Southwest Area Interagency Fire Restriction and Closure Program. The proposed program is modeled after the Northern Rockies Geographic Area Restriction Program that has been effective in improving coordination between agencies, reducing workloads, and better serving the public and stakeholders.

The Southwest Interagency Fire Restriction and Closure Master Operating Plan has been approved and signed by all Coordinating Group members and is now considered to be the guiding document for fire restriction and closure processes in the Southwest Geographic Area. The *Fire Restriction and Closure Decision Checklist* (which is an appendix within the Master Operating Plan) will be utilized as a "communication tool" within each Zone to help document decision based on multiple factors, i.e. increased human-caused fires, fire potential, etc.

The Southwest Interagency Fire Restriction and Closure Communication Plan is in the final stages of completion and then will be distributed to all agency Public Affair Officers, Public Information Officers, Fire Prevention/Mitigation personal, Agency Fire Management Officers, and any other Agency Officials. This document will outline all State and Zone Fire Restriction Coordinators, both internal and external audience needs, and any training associated with the new website program: www.firerestrictions.us. The official rollout for the website is set for *March 15, 2013*.

If you have any questions please contact Fred Hernandez at: (505) 842-3804 or fhernandez@fs.fed or your agency representative for this effort.

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