



U.S. Forest Service
Coconino National Forest
1824 S. Thompson Street
Flagstaff, Ariz. 86001

News Release



MEDIA CONTACTS:

Brady Smith, (928) 527-3490, bradysmith@fs.fed.us
George Jozens, (928) 527-3412, gjozens@fs.fed.us

www.coconinonationalforest.us
www.twitter.com/coconinonf
www.flickr.com/coconinonationalforest

On-Call PAO Line: (928) 224-8306

Coconino National Forest moves to Stage II fire restrictions Thursday

Flagstaff, Ariz., June 21, 2017, For Immediate Release — Due to warmer weather conditions, fire danger, an increase of abandoned campfires, and for public safety, Coconino National Forest officials will implement additional fire restrictions beginning Thursday (June 22) at 8 a.m.

Coconino National Forest has been in Stage I fire restrictions since June 15, which prohibited campfires across the forest and limited them to hosted developed campsites only. However, 34 abandoned campfires were located on the Forest over the weekend, and with the number of abandoned campfires found each day, coupled with dry lightning and warm weather, it is necessary to implement additional fire restrictions.

Stage II fire restrictions will be in effect beginning Thursday that prohibit the following:

- 1. Fires, campfires, charcoal, coal, and wood stoves.** (except using a device that is solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off in areas that are barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding flammable materials within three feet of the device).
- 2. Smoking** (except within an enclosed vehicle or building).
- 3. Using an explosive.**
- 4. Possessing, discharging, or using any type of firework by pyrotechnic device.**
- 5. Operating a chainsaw or any other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine from the hours of 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.** (except 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).
- 6. Welding or operating an acetylene or other torch with open flame.**
- 7. Operating or using any internal or external combustion engine without a spark arresting device properly installed, maintained, and in effective working order** (this does not include motor vehicles. This is aimed at things such as landscaping tools).
- 8. Discharging firearms, air rifles, or gas guns** (except while engaged in a lawful hunt pursuant to state, federal or tribal laws and regulations).
- 9. Possessing or using a motor vehicle off National Forest System roads** (motorized vehicles must abide by Travel Management Regulations and travel only on open Forest Roads).

In “camping corridors” where vehicles are allowed to leave a Forest Road for up to 300 feet—as well as outside camping corridors where vehicles can leave the Forest Road for up to 30 feet—vehicles can still do so, BUT ONLY AS LONG AS THE PATH THEY DRIVE OVER IS DEVOID OF VEGETATION. The intent of this restriction is to keep sources of heat underneath a vehicle from contacting any vegetation that could start a wildfire. In short, don’t drive or park over any vegetation at any time).

An explanation of the different stages of fire restrictions and what is typically prohibited during those stages can be found online at www.tinyurl.com/firestagesexplained. The public should be aware that state-managed and state-owned lands in Coconino County, south of the Colorado River, will also go into Stage II fire restrictions at the same time.

Fire restrictions will remain in place until the forest receives significant precipitation. Violation of the restrictions on national forests is punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000, imprisonment up to six months, or both.

###

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.