



INTERAGENCY NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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RECENT STORM BRINGS RAIN LOWERING FIRE DANGER

In response to the recent storms that brought a significant amount of rain, the Sequoia National Forest and Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bakersfield Field Office announced today, that fire restrictions are being lifted for all federally protected lands within their jurisdiction. Fire officials say despite the lower fire danger, fire season remains in effect.

Campfires, charcoal barbeques, and gas stoves are again permitted outside of a developed recreation site or designated "fire exempt" area. A California campfire permit is still required. Permits can be obtained, free of charge, at any Forest Service or BLM office.

The Kern Plateau received about 6-8 inches of snow starting around the 7,000 foot level from this recent storm. Due to the snow, Blackrock Visitor Information Station is temporarily closed at least through the weekend and depending on the next approaching weather system, may be closed for the season.

Visitors traveling to the forest, particularly in higher elevation areas need to plan and prepare for winter conditions. Carry tire chains, water and warm clothes in your vehicle. Weather and road conditions can change rapidly so plan ahead for your visit. Leave a travel itinerary with a relative or friend. For current conditions contact the Forest Service at (760) 376-3781 or BLM, Bakersfield Field Office at (661) 391-6000.