



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

# News Release

BLM Farmington District Office

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## **BLM increases fire restrictions in Santa Fe County - prohibiting recreational shooting**

**TAOS, N.M.** – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will update [Fire Prevention Order # NMF00000-22-01](#) to include a temporary prohibition of recreational shooting on BLM-managed lands within Santa Fe County. The restriction is necessary due to increased fire danger and prolonged drought and will be effective from June 17 to July 1, 2022. Shooting for licensed hunting purposes is still allowed.

Additionally, the following restrictions outlined in an [May 10 press release](#) remain in effect:

- Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal, or wood stove, including in campgrounds and picnic areas. Allowed: The use of stoves fueled by pressurized liquid or gas (can be turned off) within areas cleared of flammable materials at least 10 feet in diameter.
- Smoking except within an enclosed vehicle or building, developed sites and areas, or while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.
- Operating a chainsaw or any other internal or external combustion engine without a USDA or SAE approved spark arrester properly installed and working, a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher of not less than 8 ounces capacity by weight, and one round point shovel with an overall length of at least 36 inches.
- Possessing or using a motor vehicle off roads, except routes in areas open to OHV travel and except when parking in an area devoid of vegetation within 10 feet of the roadway.
- Any “hot work” conducted by authorized contractors or permittees for, by or on BLM will follow permit stipulations provided by the BLM.
- Within the Taos Field Office boundary, with exception to Santa Fe County, recreational target shooting is only allowed daily between sunrise and 11 a.m. Recreational shooters must have a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher of not less than 8 ounces capacity by weight, and one round point shovel with an overall length of at least 36 inches.

The purpose of this order is for the protection of public health and safety by minimizing chances for wildfire starts. Abundant dry fuels, high fire danger, and worsening fire conditions, has prompted this action. To view this order, visit <https://www.blm.gov/programs/public-safety-and-fire/fire-and-aviation/regional-info/new-mexico/fire-restrictions>.

The use of exploding targets and fireworks is prohibited on all BLM-managed lands in New Mexico by statewide order. For more information on this statewide order, visit <https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/docs/2022-01/Fire-Prevention-Order-NM910-22-01-final-508.pdf>. Violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and imprisonment for up to 12 months, or both. Restitution for total costs of fire suppression or damage will be borne by the violator.

The BLM appreciates the public’s cooperation in helping to minimize the number of human-caused wildfires. For more information, please contact the BLM Farmington District Office at 505-564-7600 or

the [BLM NM Fire Restrictions site](#). Additional fire restrictions information can be found at [www.nmfireinfo.com](http://www.nmfireinfo.com).

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*The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 western states, including Alaska, on behalf of the American people. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. Our mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.*

