



Fire Prevention Order COF02-26-01 Stage 1 Fire Restrictions

Royal Gorge Field Office

Due to dry conditions and high fire danger, under authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Title 43, United States Code, Section 1701, et. seq.) pursuant to Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 9212.2(a), the Bureau of Land Management Royal Gorge Field Office is implementing fire restrictions for all BLM-administered public lands within the boundaries of Baca, Bent, Crowley, Custer, El Paso, Fremont, Huerfano, Kiowa, Las Animas, Otero, Park, Prowers, Pueblo, and Teller counties beginning March 18, 2026.

Under Stage 1 Fire Restrictions the following acts are prohibited:

- Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire or campfire except within agency-provided fire grates at developed recreation sites. Devices using gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel are permitted.
- Smoking, except in an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.
- Operating a chainsaw without a USDA or SAE approved spark arrester properly installed and working, a chemical 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.
- Using a welder, either arc or gas, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame, except in cleared areas of at least 10 feet in diameter with a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher of not less than 8 ounces capacity.
- Using exploding targets.

These fire restrictions are in addition to the year-round wildfire prevention restrictions on BLM-administered public lands in Colorado. These are:

- Leaving a fire unattended or unextinguished.
- Possession, discharge or use of any fireworks.
- Discharge of a firearm using incendiary or tracer ammunition.
- Burn, ignite or cause to burn any tire, wire, magnesium, or any other hazardous or explosive material.
- Operate any off-road vehicle on public lands unless the vehicle is equipped with a properly installed spark arrester pursuant to 43 CFR 8343.1 (c).

The following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Persons with a permit or letter of authorization specifically authorizing the prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

Executed in Canon City, Colorado on this day of March 18, 2026.

Authorizing Official _____

Anyone in violation of this Fire Prevention Order may be subject to civil liability or criminal prosecution under any applicable law or BLM regulation. A violation of this Order may be classified as a Class A Misdemeanor Offense under 43 USC 1733(a) FLPMA , 18 USC 3559, and 18 USC 3571 Sentence of Fine - Sentencing Reform Act, Oct. 12, 1984. Pursuant to 18 USC 3571, if the violation does not result in death, anyone who violates this order may be fined not more than \$100,000 and/or imprisoned for not more than 12 months. Restitution for total fire suppression and damage costs incurred will be borne by the responsible party.