



Fire Prevention Order COS06-26-05

TEMPORARY EMERGENCY CLOSURE

Gunnison Field Office

Under the authority granted by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Title 43, United States Code, Section 1701, et seq.), and pursuant to Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 9212.2(a), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Gunnison Field Office is implementing a revised temporary emergency closure for public lands within Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties. This closure is enacted to protect the safety of the public and firefighters in connection with the Elk Fire, as well as to support the management and suppression rehabilitation efforts related to this incident.

The temporary emergency closure rescinds the previous closure order COS06-26-04 and reduces the closure footprint to BLM-administered public lands within the Gunnison Field Office, specifically in areas west of Colorado State Highway 149, and north of Hinsdale County Road 20 and east of the Nellie Creek Road. This closure is in addition to existing closures and restrictions currently in place. This closure shall be in effect from August 1, 2026, at 0001 hours MDT and will remain in place until further notice. During this time, all public entry into or use of the designated closure areas is prohibited.

The closure area is within these boundaries:

- **BLM-managed public lands west of Colorado State Highway 149, including the Independence Gulch Trailhead, that occur within:**
 - Township 44 North, Range 4 West, and
 - Township 45 North, Range 4 West;
- **BLM-managed public lands between Hinsdale County Road 20 and north to the U.S. Forest Service boundary, starting west of section 35 but not including section 35 and the Pike Snowden Cabin area, then proceeding West along County Road 20 to the intersection of County Road 24 at Capitol City, and proceeding northwest along County Road 24 to the U.S. Forest Service boundary, and occurring within:**
 - Sections 32, 33, and 34, T. 44 N., R. 5 W., and
 - Section 36, T. 44 N., R. 6 W., and
 - Section 05 and 06, T. 43 N., R. 5 W., and
 - Section 01, T. 43 N., R. 6 W.

See accompanying map for visual boundaries.

Under Title 43 CFR Section 9212.1, Prohibited Acts: Unless permitted in writing by the Authorized Officer, it is prohibited to perform any act restricted by this Fire Prevention Order on the above-described public lands.

PROHIBITED ACTIONS:

- Entering an area which is closed by a fire prevention order (43 CFR 9212.1(g))

EXEMPTIONS:

Pursuant to Title 43 CFR Section 9212.2, the following persons are exempt from this order:

- Any federal, state, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
- Any person with a BLM-issued permit specifically authorizing an otherwise prohibited act.

An exemption does not absolve an individual or organization from liability or responsibility for any fire started by the exempted activity.

PENALTIES:

Pursuant to Title 43 CFR § 9212.4, any person who knowingly and willfully violates the regulations at § 9212.1 of this title shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or to imprisonment of not more than twelve months, or both. Restitution for total suppression or damage costs incurred will be borne by the violator.

This order shall go into effect beginning immediately on August 1, 2026, and will remain in force until rescinded or December 31, 2026, whichever event occurs first.

Prepared in Gunnison, Colorado, on the 1st day of August, 2026.

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