



Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit



BLM – Northwest District
Kremmling, Little Snake & White River Field Offices
FW&S – Arapahoe & Browns Park National Wildlife Refuges

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Contact: Lynn Barclay, Public Information Officer, (970) 826-5096
Recorded Information Line (970) 826-5108

News Release

Conditions warrant fire restrictions in northwest Colorado

MEEKER, Colo.-Fire restrictions will go into effect at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday for public lands administered by the Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge and the Bureau of Land Management Kremmling, Little Snake and White River Field Offices.

The Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit, in alliance with local and county agencies is experiencing unseasonably warm, dry and windy weather conditions along with very dry fuels.

“Current conditions and fire activity have prompted many counties and agencies in Colorado to enact fire restrictions in an effort to curtail the occurrence of human-caused fires,” said assistant fire management officer Dave Toelle. “There is no significant rain in the immediate forecasts, so with safety and fire prevention efforts in mind we’re implementing Stage 1 fire restrictions.”

The BLM and USFWS will be enforcing restrictions on campfires, smoking, explosive materials, combustion engines and welding. Under these provisions, campfires will be restricted to designated permanently-installed fire grates or fire pits in developed campgrounds. The use of fire pans or open fires of any type in undeveloped areas is prohibited. Smoking is restricted to enclosed vehicles or buildings, developed recreations sites, or areas that are barren or cleared of all flammable vegetation. The use of explosive materials including fireworks or any incendiary device that may ignite flammable material is prohibited. Welding or operating acetylene or other similar torches with open flames is prohibited unless authorized by a permit or letter of authorization from responsible official. Operation of any internal combustion engine without a spark arresting device properly installed and in working order is prohibited. Fireworks of any type including sparklers are prohibited. Fireworks are illegal on all federal lands. The BLM will allow mechanical stoves and appliances fueled by bottled or liquid gas that allows the operator to control or extinguish the flame with a valve, provided such devices are approved by Underwriters Laboratory Inc.

Restrictions will be in place until further notice. Violation of fire restrictions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment of not more than 12 months or both.

Other counties and agencies with fire restrictions in effect are: Dinosaur National Monument; Routt National Forest; White River National Forest; and Jackson, Rio Blanco, Grand, Moffat and Routt counties. For details on fire restrictions please access the website of the agency or county you wish to visit. For a statewide listing of fire restrictions in Colorado go to: <http://www.coemergency.com/p/fire-ban-info.html> .