



NEWS RELEASE



U.S. Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Region
Pike & San Isabel National Forests
Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands
Forest Supervisors Office
2840 Kachina Dr.
Pueblo, CO 81008
<http://fs.usda.gov/goto/psicc>

U.S. Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Royal Gorge Field Office
3028 E. Main St.
Cañon City, CO 81212
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/rgfo.html

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Barb Timock, Public Affairs Officer USFS, 719-553-1415
Cass Cairns, Public Affairs Officer BLM, 719-269-8553

U.S. FOREST SERVICE AND BLM BEGIN FIRE RESTRICTIONS

PUEBLO, Colo., Sept. 16, 2010 – Extremely dry conditions have prompted the U.S. Forest Service – Pike National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management Royal Gorge Field Office to implement Stage 1 fire restrictions beginning 6 p.m. tonight until conditions improve. Both the BLM and USFS orders restrict fire and smoking on federal public lands to protect public health and safety.

The lack of precipitation in the last month, coupled with recent windy days, has led to forest fuels drying faster than normal for this time of year and rapidly increasing the fire danger. These factors, combined with weather forecasts that show little relief have necessitated the need for fire restrictions until conditions moderate.

Stage 1 fire restrictions apply to all National Forest System lands administered by the Pike National Forest located within Clear Creek, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Park, and Teller counties in Colorado. These restrictions also apply to all BLM lands within Boulder, El Paso, Fremont, Gilpin, Larimer, Park, and Teller counties.

Prohibitions include building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or open fire of any type in undeveloped areas. This includes, but is not limited to, charcoal grills, hibachis, and coal or wood burning stoves.

Smoking is only permitted 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.

Visitors to the Pike National Forest and lands administered by the Royal Gorge Field Office, within the previously stated counties, are allowed to have campfires in developed campgrounds

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and picnic grounds, and only in agency-provided manufactured fire grates and grills. The orders allow cooking stoves and other appliances fueled by liquid petroleum or bottled fuel that are equipped with a valve, which allows the operator to turn the flame on or off.

BLM Stage 1 restrictions also prohibit all fireworks activity and use on BLM lands. Possession and use of fireworks are always prohibited on National Forest System lands.

The full text of the Order for the Pike National Forest is posted on the web at:
<http://fs.usda.gov/goto/psicc>.

The full text of the Order for the Royal Gorge Field Office is posted at
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/rgfo.html.

For more information contact your local Pike National Forest District Offices: South Platte Ranger District, 303-275-5610; South Park Ranger District, 719-836-2031; Pikes Peak Ranger District, 719-636-1602, or the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office, 719-269-8500.

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