



# BLM News Release

**For Immediate Release: April 14, 2011**  
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## *BLM initiates Stage 1 fire restrictions*

**CAÑON CITY, Colo.** – The Bureau of Land Management Royal Gorge Field Office initiated Stage 1 Fire Restrictions today on BLM lands under its jurisdiction in northern and southeastern Colorado and along the Front Range. Restrictions will remain in effect until rescinded.

“It has been very dry throughout the winter months with little or no change to date within the lower to mid elevations along the Front Range and throughout northern and southeastern Colorado. The fire danger levels have been high to very high for an extended period of time. Until we see a change in the weather patterns, Stage 1 fire restrictions will be necessary,” said Keith Berger, field manager.

The restrictions affect BLM lands within the following counties: Boulder, Gilpin, Larimer, Lincoln, Logan, Morgan, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld, Yuma, Custer, El Paso, Fremont, Huerfano, Las Animas, Park, Pueblo, Teller, Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero and Prowers. BLM lands within Chaffee and Lake Counties will not be under the Stage 1 restrictions due to milder conditions.

**Restrictions:** Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or open fire of any type in undeveloped areas is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, charcoal grills, hibachis, and coal or wood burning stoves. All fireworks activity and use is also restricted.

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.

**What’s allowed:** Campfires are allowed in developed campgrounds and picnic grounds, and only in agency-provided manufactured fire grates and grills. The order allows cooking stoves and other appliances fueled by liquid petroleum or bottled fuels that are equipped with a valve, which allows the operator to turn the flame on or off.

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

For more information contact the Royal Gorge Field Office at 719-269-8500.

### FIRE PREVENTION MESSAGES

This is good time for residents living near or adjacent to wild lands to take their spring cleaning chores outside and eliminate excess vegetation and dead and dry fuels near and around the home. Not only will you increase the potential for your home to survive a wildfire, you will contribute towards firefighter and public safety. Remember, if the fire is quickly approaching then it’s too late. For excellent information on how to protect your home from a wildland fire go to [www.firewise.org/resources/homeowner.htm](http://www.firewise.org/resources/homeowner.htm).

Enjoy your public lands but do so safely. Know what restrictions are in place and be aware of current conditions. Whether or not fire restrictions are in place, you should always remember to put all campfires out completely. A campfire without flames or smoke is not completely out until the ash and soils right below is cool to the touch.

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