

DURANGO INTERAGENCY FIRE DISPATCH

**U.S. Forest Service ♦ Bureau of Land Management ♦ National Park Service
♦ Bureau of Indian Affairs ♦ Colorado State Forest Service**

For Immediate Release: June 7, 2012

FIRE RESTRICTIONS GO INTO EFFECT SATURDAY ON NATIONAL FOREST AND BLM LANDS IN SOUTHWEST COLORADO

DURANGO – As of Saturday, June 9, 2012, fire restrictions will go into effect for many of the lower and middle elevation public lands managed by the San Juan National Forest and Bureau of Land Management Tres Rios Field Office in southwestern Colorado.

Under the Stage 1 restrictions:

- campfires are limited to permanent fire rings or grates within developed campgrounds;
- smoking is limited to vehicles, buildings, or 3-ft. wide areas cleared of vegetation;
- chainsaws and other internal-combustion engines must have approved, working spark arresters;
- acetylene and other torches with an open flame may not be used; and,
- the use of explosives is prohibited.

Fire managers monitor fuel moistures of both live and dead vegetation, weather forecasts, availability of firefighting resources and other factors to determine whether and where to institute fire restrictions. By restricting campfires to campgrounds, fire managers hope to reduce the risk of an escaped fire from a hot, unattended campfire. As always, the use of fireworks is prohibited on all Forest Service and BLM lands, regardless of location.

Fire managers have divided the San Juan Public Lands into two zones, which correspond with lower- and higher-elevation areas as described by definable features, such as roads (**please see attached maps**). A general description of the Zone 1 area under these restrictions is:

From Highway 550 east to Wolf Creek Pass, the lower zone includes all San Juan Public Lands outside of the South San Juan and Weminuche Wildernesses. West of Highway 550 over to the Utah border, fire managers have used roads and trails to define the Zone 1, which generally includes lands south of Kennebec Pass, Spruce Mill Road, and the West Dolores Road. All BLM Tres Rios Field Office lands, including Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, are included, except for those located near Silverton in San Juan County.

Maps and information on the restrictions and affected areas will be available at National Forest and BLM offices in southwestern Colorado. Maps will also be posted online at: www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan and <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/sjplc.html>.

For more information, contact the San Juan Public Lands Center at 970 247-4874.