News Release





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Fire Restrictions set to increase in the Eastern Sierra

BISHOP, Calif. – The Inyo National Forest and Bureau of Land Management Bishop Field Office will be implementing fire restrictions effective on all Federal lands under their jurisdiction starting Monday, June 6. Seasonal fire restrictions for the Eastern Sierra Region are being implemented in close coordination with other state and local county agencies.

"Due to dry conditions and high fire danger, it is necessary to implement these seasonal fire restrictions," said Bureau of Land Management Field Manager Jeff Starosta. "We want to protect our visitors, communities, and natural resources from the risk of wildfire. Please do your part to help us minimize fire potential."

The following restrictions will be in place on both agency lands:

- No Campfires, briquette/charcoal barbeques, or stove fires are allowed outside of agency-provided fire rings or barbeques at designated developed recreation sites. Dispersed campfires such as rock rings, will no longer be allowed.
- **No Smoking**, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or in an area at least three feet in diameter barren of all flammable materials.
- **No welding** or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame.
- No motorized vehicles or tools powered by internal combustion engines off designated roads or trails (such as chainsaws or lawn mowers).

Additionally, on Bureau of Land Management lands only:

• **No target shooting**, except with a State of California hunting license and in accordance with California hunting regulations.

As always, possessing, discharging or using fireworks or pyrotechnic devices are prohibited across Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands. Additionally, a valid <u>California</u> Campfire Permits is required whenever you operate a stove or fire on these public lands.

There are however, exemptions to these fire restrictions. Please check each agency's website for their official orders:

Inyo National Forest Order

BLM Bishop Field Office Order

HELP US PREVENT WILDFIRES

Residents and visitors are reminded that simple steps can help prevent human-caused fires:

- Make sure your campfire is dead out! Drown it, stir it, feel it. If it's not cool to the touch, it isn't out.
- Be sure to maintain your vehicle's proper tire pressure, ensure adequate tire tread, and check brakes for overheating. Do not drive or park on brush or grass. Do not drag chains while towing.
- Motorcycles, ATV's and chainsaws require an approved spark arrestor.
- Remember that the use of steel-core ammunition, although legal while hunting, can greatly increase the chance of a wildfire if ricocheted off objects such as rocks.

Anyone found guilty of violating a fire prevention order may be fined not more than \$100,000 and/or face imprisonment for not more than 12 months. Restitution for total fire suppression and damage costs incurred may be borne by the trespasser.

Help prevent wildfires ... One Less Spark, One Less Wildfire.

This year, we invite everyone to reimagine your public lands as we celebrate 75 years of the BLM's stewardship and service to the American people. The BLM manages approximately 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The agency's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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