

# NEWS RELEASE

Valles Caldera Trust, Valles Caldera National Preserve  
USDA Forest Service, Santa Fe National Forest  
New Mexico State Game & Fish



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## Santa Fe National Forest, Valles Caldera National Preserve & NM Department of Game & Fish Lands Enter Stage II Restrictions

*Campfires are NOT allowed*

**(SANTA FE, NM)**—Beginning Monday, June 18 at 8:00 a.m. the Santa Fe National Forest, Valles Caldera National Preserve, and NM State Game & Fish properties will enter Stage II Fire Restrictions due to the potential for extreme fire danger.

The restrictions apply to all National Forest System lands within the Santa Fe National Forest and Valles Caldera National Preserve.

“Prolonged high temperatures, low humidity, and current fire activity have really increased the potential for extreme fire danger on the Forest,” said Bruce Hill, Santa Fe National Forest Public Affairs Officer. “We’ve also unfortunately seen a high number of abandoned camp fires already this year even while in Stage I Fire Restrictions. We need to take added precautions under these conditions to reduce risk to the public, and cultural and natural resources by going into Stage II.”

Second level (Stage II) restrictions prohibit campfires on Forest Service land with the only exception being the use of petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns, propane grills, or heating devices that meet the fire underwriter’s specification for safety. Smoking is prohibited except within an enclosed vehicle or building. Possessing, discharging or using any kind of fire work or other pyrotechnic device is also prohibited.

Prohibitions include operating a chainsaw, or other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame, operating or using any internal combustion engine without a spark arresting device properly installed, maintained, and in effective working order meeting either Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Standards or appropriate Society of Automotive Engineers recommended practice. Possessing or using a motor vehicle off National Forest System roads, except within parking in an area devoid of vegetation within 10 feet of the roadway: and except for parking overnight in Forest Service developed campgrounds and trailheads.

Violations of these restrictions on Forest Service lands are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations and/or imprisonment for not more than six months. The restriction order will remain in effect until October 31 or until rescinded, whichever occurs first.

For more information regarding forest recreation opportunities and fire restrictions, please contact the Santa Fe National Forest at (505) 438-5300, or visit us online at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/santafe>. For general information regarding ongoing fire activity on the Santa Fe National Forest please call 1-877-971-3473, or visit [www.nmfireinfo.com](http://www.nmfireinfo.com). Also, follow us on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/SantafeNF>.

