



UPPER COLORADO RIVER INTERAGENCY FIRE MANAGEMENT

USFS - White River National Forest
BLM - Grand Junction
USFS - Grand Mesa National Forest



Explanation of Fire Restriction Stages

Components of Stages

There are two fire restriction stages: **Stage I** and **Stage II**. There is one closure stage: **Stage III**

Stage I

The following acts are prohibited:

Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire except within a developed recreation site, or improved site. 36 CFR 261.52(a).

Smoking, except within 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. 36 CFR 261.52(d).

Operating or using any internal or external combustion engine without a spark-arresting device properly installed, maintained, and in effective working order meeting either the USDA Forest Service Standard 5100-1a (as amended), or appropriate Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) recommended practice J335(b) and J350(a) (36 CFR 261.52(j)).

Stage II

The following acts are prohibited, in addition to the prohibitions of Stage I:

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire. 36 CFR 261.52(a)
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building. 36 CFR 261.52(c)
3. Possessing, discharging, or using any kind of firework or other pyrotechnic device. 36 CFR 261.52(f)
4. Using an explosive. 36 CFR 261.52(b)
5. Operating a chainsaw or other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine between 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. 36 CFR 261.52(h).
6. Operating or using any internal or external combustion engine without a spark arresting device properly installed, maintained and in effective working order meeting either:
 1. USDA Forest Service Standard 5100-1a (as amended); or
 2. Appropriate Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) recommended practice J335 (b) and J350 (a). 36 CFR § 261.52(j) and 43 CFR § 9212.1(h);

7. Welding, or operating an acetylene or other torch with open flame. 36 CFR 261.52(i)
8. Possess or use a motor vehicle off: Forest System Roads (36 CFR 261.56) Except when parking in an area devoid of vegetation within 10 feet of the roadway; and except for parking overnight in developed campgrounds and at trailheads.

Exemptions Common to Stages I and II

- Persons with a written fire entry and activity permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act.
- Persons using a fire fueled solely by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels.
- Persons conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice.
- Any federal, state, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
- Resident owners and private lessees of land within the restricted area exempt from restriction 1 above, provided such fires are within a residence.

Stage III

The area is closed to all entry (36 CFR 261.52(e)) other than as follows:

- Persons with a written fire entry and activity permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act. This may include such persons as grazing-permit holders when entry is needed to gather, move, or otherwise manage their permitted livestock, special-use authorization holders when access is needed to maintain emergency or other communications operations, and others.
- Any federal, state, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
- Resident owners and lessees of land within the closed area.

Penalties

Violations of these regulations is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor, by a fine of not more than \$5000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months or both.

Explanation of Fire Danger Ratings

Fire danger ratings are defined as follows:

Low: Low fire danger

Moderate: Carry out any forest activities with caution.

High: Fire hazard is serious. Extreme caution must be used in any forest activities. Burning permits and industrial activities may be restricted.

Very High: Fire hazard is very serious. Fuel moistures are extremely low and burning indexes are high.

Extreme: Extremely high fire hazard. General forest activities may be restricted, including burning permits, industrial activities, and campfires.

Stage III

The area is closed to all entry (36 CFR 261.52(e)) other than as follows:

- Persons with a written fire entry and activity permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act. This may include such persons as grazing-permit holders when entry is needed to gather, move, or otherwise manage their permitted livestock, special-use authorization holders when access is needed to maintain emergency or other communications operations, and others.
- Any federal, state, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
- Resident owners and lessees of land within the closed area.

Penalties

Violations of these regulations is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor, by a fine of not more than \$5000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months or both.