

**FOREST ORDER
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**

FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 CFR § 261.50 (a) and (b), the following acts are prohibited on all National Forest System lands administered as National Forests or National Grasslands within the Rocky Mountain Region (Region 2) of the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service in the States of Colorado, Kansas, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

This Regional Order is supplemental to and does not rescind or replace those restrictions at 36 C.F.R. § 261 Subpart A, and/or any Forest Supervisor Order issued under 36 C.F.R. § 261 Subpart B. The purpose of this Order is to protect public health, safety, and natural resources by preventing wildfires, as Firefighting and Law Enforcement resources are limited, during the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 has been declared a National Emergency.

National Forests (“NF”) and National Grasslands (“NGL”):

COLORADO

Arapaho & Roosevelt NF
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre,
and Gunnison NF
Routt NF
Pike & San Isabel NF
Rio Grande NF
San Juan NF
White River NF
Comanche NGL
Pawnee NGL

KANSAS

Cimarron NGL

NEBRASKA

Nebraska & Samuel R. McKelvie NF
Oglala NGL

SOUTH DAKOTA WYOMING

Black Hills NF
Buffalo Gap NG
Fort Pierre NGL

Bighorn NF
Medicine Bow NF
Shoshone NF
Thunder Basin NGL
Black Hills NF

PROHIBITIONS: This Order prohibits the following acts in the Areas listed above:

1. Igniting, building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, including charcoal grills and barbecues, coal and wood burning stoves, and shepherd’s stoves. 36 CFR §261.52(a).
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, trailer, or building. 36 CFR § 261.52(c).

EXEMPTIONS:

Pursuant to 36 CFR § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from specified Prohibitions of this Order:

1. Persons with a Forest Permit, Form FS-7700-48, specifically exempting them from the

effect of this Order in the areas listed above.

2. Any Federal, State or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty is exempt from Prohibitions.
3. Persons using pressurized liquid or gas devices (stoves, grills or lanterns) with shut-off valves in an area at least three feet from any flammable materials are exempt from Prohibition #1.
4. Residents, owners or lessees within the areas listed above who are using a fire in a permanent dwelling with an effective and properly installed USDA- or SAE- approved spark arrestor, are exempt from Prohibition #1.

Notice regarding Exemptions: Holders of valid Forest Service permits, leases and authorizations and all other persons are on notice that when proceeding with activities that are authorized pursuant to these Exemptions, such persons are responsible for conducting authorized activities in a safe and prudent manner using extra precautions and are electing to proceed at their own risk. An exemption does not absolve an individual or organization from liability or responsibility for damage, injury or loss to the United States for any fire started while undertaking the exempted activity.

This Order will be in effect from 12:01 am on April 7th, 2020 and will remain in force until May 31st, 2020 or until rescinded, whichever event occurs first.

Executed in Lakewood, Colorado this 7th day of April, 2020.

Jennifer Eberlien
Regional Forester
Rocky Mountain Region

A violation of the prohibitions in this Order is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both. (16 U.S.C. § 551 and 18 U.S.C §§ 3559 and 3571).