

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service
Coronado National Forest
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www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado



For Immediate Release

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DRYING TRENDS AND REGIONAL FIRE ACTIVITY PROMPT CORONADO FIRE RESTRICTIONS

TUCSON, AZ (May 24, 2004)—Effective at 8:00 a.m., Friday, May 28, the Coronado National Forest will implement campfire and smoking restrictions. Due to continuing drought conditions, subsequent drying of forest fuels and vegetation, and other fire activity within the region, the Forest decided to implement fire restrictions. Many factors were considered in this decision, including discussion and comparison of conditions with neighboring Federal and State land managers.

“Recent increases in our local fire danger indices, leads us to conclude there is potential for significant fire activity in the coming weeks. The fact that we are still in the clutches of extreme drought and with the recent commitment of fire suppression resources throughout the region, we felt it was prudent to implement fire restrictions at this time,” said Pete Gordon, Acting Forest Fire Management Officer for the Coronado National Forest.

The year-round free campfire permit system on the Santa Catalina Ranger District, including Mt. Lemmon and Redington Pass, will be suspended during fire restrictions.

Restrictions include the following:

- **Open Campfire Restrictions:** Campfires, charcoal grills, and stove fires **are prohibited** on National Forest System lands, except in Forest Service developed campgrounds and picnic grounds where grills are provided. Pressurized liquid or gas stoves, lanterns, and heaters meeting safety specifications **are allowed**.
- **Smoking Restrictions:** Smoking is allowed within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter and free of all flammable material.
- **Fireworks:** Fireworks are prohibited on all National Forest System lands year-round.

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For other local fire restrictions and fire information for any Southwestern Forest:

- Check our website www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire
- Phone 1-877-864-6985 (toll free).