

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Restrictions Not Warranted at This Time; Officials Encourage Fire Safety

MONTROSE, Colo. – Wildfire prevention is everyone’s responsibility. As we celebrate Independence Day, the Bureau of Land Management encourages the public to be careful with all combustible materials to prevent human-caused fires.

If you plan to build a campfire, keep it small and clear of surrounding vegetation. Campfires should be no larger than necessary for cooking or personal warmth. Keep a shovel and water nearby at all times to extinguish the fire. Feel for any heat using the back of your hand to be sure the fire is completely out. If necessary, continue to drown the fire with water and mix in soil until the fire until it is completely out.

Prior to building a campfire, the Bureau of Land Management Southwest District encourages you to check if fire restrictions are in place (www.rmacc.info) before enjoying your public lands this summer. Fire restrictions are enacted to reduce the risk of human-caused fires during periods of high fire danger. Fire officials and land managers evaluate weather conditions, occurrence of human-caused fires, and the availability of adequate firefighting resources in making the determination to enact fire restrictions. Despite an increase in temperature, the criteria to enact fire restrictions have not been met on BLM managed lands in southwest Colorado. If conditions change, the BLM will notify the public if restrictions go into effect.

Although there are no fire restrictions on BLM-managed land in southwest Colorado, the following acts are always prohibited on public lands nationwide:

- the use of fireworks and other incendiary devices,
- leaving fires unattended or unextinguished.

Additionally, the increase in wildfire activity throughout the West provides a reminder for those living in areas at risk of wildfire to take action and increase their home’s survivability. The West Region Wildfire Council (Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties) and Firewise of Southwest Colorado (Archuleta, La Plata, and Montezuma Counties) can provide assistance in reducing wildfire risk. For more information go to <http://www.cowildfire.org/> or <http://www.southwestcoloradofires.org/>.

For information on wildfires and restrictions in the area, call the Southwest District Fire Management Information line (970.240.1070), or follow us on Twitter (https://twitter.com/SWD_Fire) and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/BLMMontroseFireUnit>).

The Southwest District Fire Management program covers the BLM Colorado’s Southwest District and the Gunnison Field Office (BLM), the Uncompahgre Field Office (BLM), and Tres Rios Field Office (BLM) in the Colorado counties of Archuleta, Conejos, Delta, Dolores, Gunnison, Hinsdale, La Plata, Mesa, Mineral, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, Rio Grande, Saguache, San Juan and San Miguel.

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