



UPPER COLORADO RIVER  
FIRE AND AVIATION MANAGEMENT UNIT  
BLM - NORTHWEST DISTRICT  
BLM - SOUTHWEST DISTRICT  
USFS - WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST



## NEWS RELEASE

June 6, 2018

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### **Fire restrictions begin Friday for BLM lands in Mesa and Garfield counties**

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. – Stage 1 fire restrictions begin June 8 for the majority of Bureau of Land Management administered lands in Garfield and Mesa counties.

These restrictions cover all lands administered by the Grand Junction Field Office as well as the additional BLM-administered lands in Garfield and Mesa counties managed by the Colorado River Valley Field Office. Stage 1 fire restrictions are already in place for unincorporated private lands in Garfield and Mesa counties.

The Grand Junction Field Office also includes northern portion of Montrose County. With the Uncompahgre Field Office to the south already in stage 1 fire restrictions, all BLM lands and unincorporated private lands in Montrose County are also now in fire restrictions.

Fire managers base decisions about fire restrictions on specific moisture measurements in vegetation and other risk factors.

“Recent hot and dry weather is increasing fire danger, and we are seeing particularly high fire danger at elevations below about 8,000 feet,” said Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire and Aviation Management Unit Fire Management Officer Rob Berger. “Stage 1 fire restrictions help reduce the number of human-caused fires as well as increase public awareness of the high fire danger.”

BLM will be enforcing temporary restrictions of:

- campfires are only allowed within designated fire grates in developed campgrounds (i.e. a metal, in-ground containment structure -- fire pans and rock campfire rings are not acceptable)
- no fires of any type including charcoal outside of developed areas
- no smoking except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or in a barren area free of vegetation
- no use of explosive materials, including explosive targets
- no welding or operation of an acetylene or other similar torch with open flame except from an area that has been cleared of vegetation

- no operation of any internal combustion engine without a spark arresting device properly installed and in working order

Fire restrictions on these lands will be in place until further notice. Violation of federal fire restrictions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$100,000 or imprisonment for not more than 12 months or both. Those found responsible for starting wildfires will also face restitution costs of suppressing the fire.

Fireworks are always prohibited on BLM, National Forest and National Park Service lands.

Based on local conditions, BLM managers are not currently initiating fire restrictions in Eagle or Pitkin counties, nor is the White River National Forest initiating fire restrictions at this time. Fire officials caution that there is still a fire danger in these areas, and remind people to be careful with fire.

For more information about fire restrictions in these areas, log on to [http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch\\_centers/r2gjc/](http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2gjc/), call the Grand Junction Field Office (970) 244-3000 Colorado River Valley Field Office at (970) 876-9000.

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