



NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests

Prescott National Forest

Tonto National Forest

For Immediate Release

FIRE RESTRICTIONS FOR THREE

NATIONAL FORESTS IN ARIZONA TO START MAY 20, 2003

PHOENIX, ARIZONA---May 15, 2003---The Apache-Sitgreaves, Prescott, and Tonto national forests will implement campfire and smoking restrictions starting at 8:00 am on Tuesday, May 20, 2003.

The **Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest** will implement campfire and smoking restrictions **forest-wide**.

Prescott National Forest will have restrictions in the **Prescott Basin**, adjacent to the City of Prescott and in the **Bradshaw Mountains** south of Prescott.

In **Tonto National Forest**, fire restrictions will be in place **around the Pine and Strawberry communities, north of the Control Road (Forest Road 64) and going east to Highway 260 to the top of the Mogollon Rim**. Additionally, campfire and smoking restrictions will be in place in the **Pinal Mountains south of Globe**.

“All the fire danger indicators are suggesting that we are at the start of our fire season and vegetation in national forests lands are drying out very rapidly,” said Tom Beddow, Fire Management Officer, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest.

At this time Coronado, Coconino and Kaibab national forests are not implementing fire restrictions. There are **no forest area closures** in effect.

For other local fire restrictions for any public lands in the southwest, you can go to: **www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire or call toll free 1-877-864-6985.**

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Fire Restrictions for Three National Forests to Start May 20, 2003- cont.

Open Campfire Restrictions:

Campfires, charcoal grills and stove fires **are prohibited** on national forest lands without a permit, except in Forest Service developed camp and picnic grounds where grills are provided. Please contact each national forest regarding their respective campfire regulations.

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:

As always, fireworks are prohibited on all national forest lands.

Please help keep our public lands free from wildfires for the duration of this fire season.

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