



# News Release

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## Enjoy the Fourth of July in the Sierra National Forest Safely

**CLOVIS, Calif., June 29, 2016** – In accordance with Forest Order 05-15-00-16-06, fire restrictions are now in place for the Sierra National Forest. Higher temperatures, drier fuel conditions, a large number of dead and dying trees and an increase in fire activity seen within Region 5 has led to this decision.

### **Fire Restrictions Prohibit:**

- **Open flame fires:** Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire, except within the Designated Wilderness Areas listed in Exhibit A or the Designated Recreation Sites listed in Exhibit B.
- **Smoking:** Except within an enclosed vehicle or building, or within the Designated Wilderness Areas listed in Exhibit A or the Designated Recreation Sites listed in Exhibit B.
- **Blasting or Welding:** except by special use permit.
- **Operating an internal combustion engine:** Except on a National Forest System road or trail.
- **Fireworks:** are illegal on all National Forest's and Grass Lands.

Water levels are higher in the many lakes and rivers on the Sierra, and so is visitation. Visitors in the area for the Fourth of July weekend are reminded to drive safely, lock vehicles and watch all children. As tree hazard reduction projects are being completed in the Sierra National Forest, more areas are being opened for families to enjoy. The sponsored fireworks shows at Bass Lake and Shaver Lake will continue as planned. Areas that have just recently been opened include; Whison Campground, Little Denver Church and Denver Church Picnic Area on the Bass Lake Ranger District, and Gigantea Campground on the High Sierra Ranger District. For information on the restrictions and the forest order, contact your local ranger district. We wish everyone a happy and safe Fourth of July.

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