

**FOREST ORDER
USDA FOREST SERVICE
RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST**

STAGE I FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 CFR § 261.50(a) and (b), the following acts are prohibited on all National Forest System lands within the Rio Grande National Forest in the State of Colorado (the "Restricted Area") and on all roads and trails located within the Restricted Area.

The purpose of this Order is to protect public health, safety, and natural resources by preventing wildfires.

PROHIBITIONS: This Order prohibits the following acts in the Restricted Area:

- 1) Igniting, building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire (including fires fueled by charcoal or briquettes) **outside** of a permanent metal or concrete fire pit or grate that the Forest Service has installed and maintained at its developed recreation sites (campgrounds and picnic areas). 36 CFR § 261.52(a).
- 2) Smoking, except in an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials. 36 CFR § 261.52(d).
- 3) Operating a chainsaw without an effective and properly installed USDA- or Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE)- approved spark arrestor, a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher (with a minimum 8 oz. capacity and rating of 2A) kept with the operator, and a round point shovel with an overall length of at least 35 inches readily available for use. 36 CFR § 261.52(j).
- 4) Blasting, welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame without being in a cleared area of at least 10 feet in diameter and keeping a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher (with a minimum 8 oz. capacity and rating of 2A) with the operator. 36 CFR § 261.52(i).
- 5) Using an explosive. This includes but is not limited to fuses, blasting caps, fireworks, rockets, exploding targets, tracers, and incendiary ammunition. 36 CFR § 261.52(b).

EXEMPTIONS:

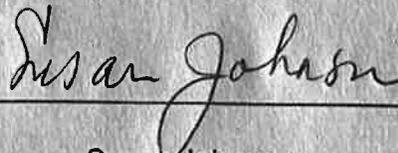
Pursuant to 36 CFR § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from specified Prohibitions of this Order:

- 1) Persons with the following authorizations are exempt from Prohibitions #1, #3, #4, and #5: (i) a valid Forest Service permit or contract specifically authorizing Prohibitions #1, #3, #4, and #5 in the Restricted Area in their physical possession and (ii) a written exemption with an appropriate mitigation plan authorized in writing by the appropriate Forest Service official.
- 2) Persons using either of the following devices are exempt from Prohibition #1: a stove or grill solely fueled by liquid petroleum fuels, or a fully enclosed metal stove, grill, or sheep herder type stove with a chimney at least five feet in length and a mesh screen spark arrestor with a screen opening of ¼ inch or less.
- 3) Any federal, state or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty is exempt from Prohibitions #1, #3, #4, and #5.

Notice regarding Exemptions: Holders of valid Forest Service permits, leases and authorizations and all other persons are on notice that when proceeding with activities that are authorized pursuant to these Exemptions, such persons are responsible for conducting authorized activities in a safe and prudent manner using extra precautions and are electing to proceed at their own risk. An exemption does not absolve an individual or organization from liability or responsibility for damage, injury or loss to the United States for any fire started while undertaking the exempted activity.

This Order becomes effective at 12:01 am on 8/21/2020 and remains in effect until 12/31/2020 or until rescinded, whichever event occurs first.

Executed in Monte Vista, Colorado, on this 20th day of August, 2020



Susan Johnson
Acting Forest Supervisor

A violation of the prohibitions in this Order is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organizations, or imprisonment for more than six months, or both. 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 18 USC §§ 3559 and 3571.