



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
GIFFORD PINCHOT NATIONAL FOREST
VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

FOREST ORDER NO. 06-03-00-20-06

Forest Campfire Prohibition

Pursuant to 16 USC § 551 and 36 CFR § 261.50 (a) and (b), and to provide for public safety, the following acts are prohibited upon lands under my jurisdiction with the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. This order will be effective beginning September 9, 2020, and remain in effect until October 31, 2020, unless rescinded sooner.

PROHIBITION:

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire or stove fire, including a charcoal fire or pellet fire. This includes all general forest areas and developed campgrounds. 36 CFR 261.52(a)

**Portable, petroleum-filled cooking stoves, heating devices, and lanterns using liquefied or bottled fuel are permissible, provided such devices meet the underwriter's specifications for safety (i.e. devices that can be turned off).*

2. Violating any state law concerning burning, fires, or which is for the purpose of preventing or restricting the spread of fires. 36 CFR 261.52 (k)

CLOSURE AREA DESCRIPTION:

All National Forest Lands of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

EXEMPTIONS:

Pursuant to 36 CFR § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Persons with a contract or permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of any organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

This prohibition is in addition to the general prohibitions in 36 C.F.R. Part 261, Subpart A.

Executed in Vancouver, WA this 9th day of September, 2020.

ERIC VEACH
Forest Supervisor
Gifford Pinchot National Forest

Violations of this prohibition is punishable as a Class B Misdemeanor, by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both (16 USC § 551; 18 USC § 3559 and 18 USC § 3571)



File Code: 5330
Date: September 9, 2020

TO FILE:

I have decided to temporarily prohibit campfires on Gifford Pinchot National Forest lands. This prohibition includes all general forest areas and developed campgrounds. The prohibition will remain in effect from September 9, 2020 until October 31, 2020, unless rescinded.

Background and Need:

Due to high fire risk predictions from hot and dry conditions including low fuel moisture, low relative humidity and high temperatures across the forest and region, a forest order is needed to prohibit campfires, on all forest service lands within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. These extremely critical risk conditions make it likely that unattended campfires will escape and rapidly spread. The region's and the nation's fire management and suppression resources are stretched to their limit, and new starts could remain unmanaged for days.

Additionally, unattended, abandoned, and other careless campfire uses are one of the leading causes of wildfire and firefighter response. A campfire prohibition this season would greatly reduce escaped campfires thus reducing possible COVID19 exposure amongst wildland firefighters and other first responders.

Intent of Subpart B order:

Reduce risk of escaped campfire and associated risks to public and fire fighter safety from health risks associated with COVID-19 Coronavirus.

Enforcement Plan:

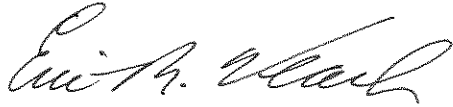
Law Enforcement Officers will enforce this order. District employees in the area will notify the District Ranger and local LEO if violations of the order are observed.

NEPA:

Based on a review of the proposed order and consultation with the District and Forest resource specialists, I have concluded that this decision may be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act. This action falls within the category identified in 36 C.F.R. § 220.6(d) (1) – prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect health and safety – and does not require documentation in a decision memo, decision notice, or record of decision. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances associated with this temporary closure and procedures for legal notice and opportunity to comment (36 CFR 215.4) do not apply to this project. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.

Posting:

Notification to the public regarding the prohibition of Campfires will be made by posting signs on major roadways traversing the forest, at sign boards and kiosks, affected trailheads, and closed campgrounds, Forest Headquarters, and each district office. Officers will exercise full discretion in the enforcement effort with public safety, education and compliance being the objective.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Veach", written in a cursive style.

ERIC VEACH
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure: Forest Closure Order: 06-03-00-20-06

cc: Rebecca Hoffman, Erin Black, Nikia Hernandez, Joseph Cook, Mailroom Gifford Pinchot