

STF 2011 Fire Restrictions (High Hazard Area)

The Stanislaus National Forest Fire Management Plan (Appendix A, Wildland Fire Management Program Implementation), and Forest Service Manual – 5110.4, give authority and guidance on implementing actions that reduce the risk of certain ignition sources.

I recommend that the forest enact a forest order for fire restrictions in our high hazard area at 2400 hours on Wednesday, August 24, 2011.

Criteria for activation of prohibitions in high hazard areas through forest orders are based on National Fire Danger Rating System indices and fuel moisture conditions. The forest currently meets the criteria for activation of restrictions in the high hazard area using the Mt. Elizabeth weather station as the representative site. Indices that can trigger restrictions are: Burning Index is 60 or greater for three consecutive days with a predicted stable or upward trend, dead fuel moistures for thousand-hour time lag fuels are less than 14%, and Energy Release Component greater than 70. Current conditions reflect a Burning Index ranging in the high 70's with an upward trend, calculated thousand-hour fuel moisture of 9% with an Energy Release Component of 74. Combinations of these readings indicate a need for restricting potential fire-causing activities of persons using the Stanislaus National Forest high hazard areas.

Exemptions to this order should include: persons possessing a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission; any federal, state, or local officer, or member of a rescue or firefighting force in the performance of official duty; and persons residing within the Stanislaus National Forest using a campfire or stove fire at their place of residence. This last exemption still prohibits residents from the welding and use of explosives clauses of the order.

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Done at Sonora California, this 18th day of August, 2011.

/s/ Susan Skalski

SUSAN SKALSKI

Forest Supervisor

Stanislaus National Forest

Stanislaus National Forest Fire Hazard Areas

