

NEWS RELEASE

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION



Colville National Forest

765 South Main St., Colville, WA 99114 OR www.fs.fed.us/r6/colville

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August 25, 2011

Fire Restrictions Begin August 26 on the Colville National Forest

Colville, WA- Colville National Forest officials are implementing phase I fire restrictions on Friday, August 26, 2011, at 0001 hrs. (12:01 a.m.). Campfires will be allowed in approved campgrounds and smoking will be prohibited outside of a vehicle. These restrictions apply to all areas, roads, and trails on the Colville National Forest.

“Increasing daily temperatures, lower humidity, and a increased number of human caused fires in eastern Washington make phase I restrictions necessary,” said Steve Rawlings, Fire Management Officer for the Colville National Forest. Rawlings added, “Our residents and visitors certainly understand just how high our fire danger is right now, and the restrictions serve as a reminder to pay extra attention when they’re enjoying their National Forest.”

Currently, the Colville National Forest is experiencing “high” fire danger with fire behavior indicators approaching the 90th percentile. Historically, when fire behavior indicators reach the 90th percentile, the Forest experiences large fires and fires that have the potential to quickly escape initial attack efforts by firefighters.

In addition to fire restrictions, the Colville National Forest will be entering into Industrial Fire Precaution Level II, also known as "Hoot Owl" wood cutting restrictions. Hoot Owl is a historic term used to notify woodcutters of elevated fire danger and to only cut in the morning hours when you can hear Hoot Owls. This has developed into the modern policy of no chainsaws running in the woods after 1:00 p.m. The restriction is in place to reduce the risk of an accidental fire start by mechanical equipment during the hottest and driest part of the day.

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A long handled shovel and a pressurized chemical fire extinguisher not less than 8 oz. in capacity is required by all permit holders. Be sure to monitor the area for one hour after cutting to ensure no spark has been fanned to a flame

Motorists should also exercise caution when driving on Forest roads and trails by avoiding dry grass and vegetation; hot exhaust systems can easily ignite dry grasses. Visitors are also encouraged to have a shovel, water, and a fire extinguisher available. It is also important to remember that fireworks are never allowed on National Forests.

Forest Visitors are also reminded that charcoal grills are prohibited outside of approved campgrounds during fire restrictions. Charcoal burns longer and hotter than wood and may appear to be cold; however, hot embers can linger for hours. Winds can spread the embers from charcoal and campfires into vegetation, and ignite a wildfire. Propane or white gas stoves are acceptable for use outside of designated campgrounds during fire restrictions. Please report fires by calling 9-1-1, or 509-685-6900, the Northeast Washington Interagency Communication Center in Colville.

For more information on equipment requirements or if you have questions concerning the fire restrictions, please contact your local Ranger Station or the Colville National Forest Headquarters.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Colville National Forest

Pursuant to 36 CFR Section 261.50(b), the following acts are prohibited on National Forest System Lands as described below within the Colville National Forest.

1. **Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire or stove fire.** For the purpose of this order, this restriction includes briquette fires and applies to all National Forest System lands within the Colville National Forest except, persons maintaining pressurized liquid gas stoves, which are exempt. (36 CFR 261.52(a)) This restriction does not apply to designated campgrounds with improved campfire facilities as described in Exhibit A.
2. **Smoking.** For the purpose of this order smoking is prohibited on all National Forest System lands except within an enclosed vehicle (including a fully enclosed camp trailer) or building, or while stopped in an area at least ten (10) feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material. (36CFR 261.52).

These restrictions are effective immediately and will remain in effect until rescinded.

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

1. Persons with a permit which specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

Violations of these prohibitions are punishable 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 and 18 USC 3559 and 3571).

Campgrounds exempt from

FIRE RESTRICTIONS

EXHIBIT A

Three Rivers Ranger District:

Lake Leo Campground
Lake Gillette Campground
Lake Thomas Campground
Gillette Campground
Little Twin Lake Campground
Big Meadow Lake Campground
Pierre Lake Campground
Davis Lake Campground
Trout Lake Campground
Canyon Creek Campground
Sherman Overlook Campground
Lake Ellen Campground

Newport and Sullivan Lake Ranger Districts:

Panhandle Campground
South Skookum Campground
Pioneer Park Campground
Millpond Campground
East Sullivan Campground
Edgewater Campground
Noisy Creek Group Campground
Noisy Creek Campground
Sullivan Lake Group Campground
West Sullivan Campground
Browns Lake Campground

Republic Ranger District:

Ferry Lake
Swan Lake Campground
Long Lake Campground
Lambert Creek Campground
East Side of 10 Mile Campground

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