

ORDER 08-12-08
MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST
FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to provide for public safety and protect natural resources, the following acts are prohibited within the Mendocino National Forest. This Order is effective from July 13, 2012, through the end of the official 2012 fire season.

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire, except in the Designated Recreation Sites shown on Exhibit A. 36 CFR 261.52(a).
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, or within the Designated Recreation Sites shown on Exhibit A. 36 CFR 261.52(d).
3. Operating an internal combustion engine, except on National Forest System roads or trails. 36 CFR 261.52(h).
4. Welding, or operating an acetylene or other torch with an open flame. 36 CFR 261.52(i).
5. Using an explosive. 36 CFR 261.52(b).
6. Possessing, discharging or using any kind of firework or other pyrotechnic device. 36CFR261.52(f).

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

1. Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission. Persons with a valid California Campfire Permit are not exempt from the prohibitions listed in this Order. However, persons with a valid California Campfire Permit may use portable stoves or lanterns using gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.
3. Persons with a Special Use Permit from the Forest Service for a recreation residence on the Mendocino National Forest are exempt from Prohibition Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 while they are at their recreation residence.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

A violation of these prohibitions is 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 six months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, 3571 and 3581.

Done at Willows, California on this 12th day of July 2012.


Sherry A. Tune
Forest Supervisor

EXHIBIT A
Designated Recreation Sites

Covelo Ranger District: Eel River, Little Doe, Howard Lake and Hammerhorn Lake campgrounds.

Grindstone Ranger District: Red Bluff Recreation Area and Big Springs Day Use Area, Whitlock, Kingsley Glade, Sugarfoot Glade, Three Prong, Wells Cabin, Sugar Springs, Letts Lake, Mill Valley, Dixie Glade, Plaskett Meadows, Masterson, Little Stony, Grey Pine, Fouts Springs, Davis Flat, South Fork, Cedar Camp, Mill Creek, North Fork and Old Mill campgrounds.

Upper Lake Ranger District: Fuller Grove, Fuller Group Camp, Navy Camp, Pogie Point, Oak Flat, Sunset, Middle Creek, Deer Valley, Bear Creek, Penny Pines, and Lower Nye campgrounds.

Date: July 12, 2012

To: File

From: Sherry A. Tune, Forest Supervisor



Re: Fire Restrictions, Order No. 08-12-08

This document explains my rationale and the regulatory basis for implementing restrictions on fire use within the Mendocino National Forest.

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. Indices that can trigger restrictions are: Burning Index is 60 or greater for three consecutive days. Weather and fuel conditions warrant fire restrictions going into effect.

After consulting with Forest Fire Chief Marc Nelson regarding current and expected weather and fuel conditions within the Forest, I am following his recommendation that we issue an order restricting fire use on the Forest.

After reviewing the documentation in relation to the development of the closure order, I find no extraordinary circumstances associated with a fire-use restriction at this time. All Forest visitors will be treated in a consistent manner and there will be little or no impact on any one particular group. No adverse impacts will be imposed on the general population.

I have determined that this action is in a category of actions that are excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement. The category of exclusion is Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, 13.12(1); Orders issued pursuant to 36 CFR Part 261 – Prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety. This is not a project or activity implementing a land and resource management plan that is documented in a decision memo, decision notice, or record of decision.