



News Release

USDA Forest Service

Cibola National Forest and Grasslands

2113 Osuna Rd. NE ■ Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001



For Immediate Release

Mt. Taylor Ranger District to close on July 1 due to extreme fire danger

Albuquerque, NM. June 25, 2013. The Cibola National Forest and Grasslands Forest Supervisor Elaine Kohrman has announced that the Mt. Taylor Ranger District will be closed due to extreme fire danger. The closure order will take effect at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, July 1, 2013. “The Mt. Taylor Ranger District continues to experience extreme drought conditions,” said Kohrman. “Based on the National Weather Service predictions of ongoing drought, I feel it is necessary to close the district to prevent human-caused wildfires and to protect public health and safety.”

When closure orders are in place, all areas of the district – except for the ranger station - are closed unless specifically listed as open. This includes picnic areas, campgrounds and trails. The only exceptions are:

1. Persons with a Forest Service permit specifically authorizing the prohibited act or omission.
2. Any federal, state or local officer or member of an organized firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
3. Residents, owners and lessees of land within the restricted area are allowed to enter only to the extent necessary to access their land.

Current fire restrictions for the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands:

- **Black Kettle and McClellan Creek National Grasslands:** No restrictions.
- **Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands:** In Stage I fire restrictions.
- **Magdalena Ranger District:** In Stage II fire restrictions for the San Mateo, Datil and Magdalena Mountain units and Stage I fire restrictions on the Bear and Gallinas units.
- **Mountainair Ranger District:** Closed due to extreme fire conditions.
- **Mt. Taylor Ranger District:** Will be closed on July 1, 2013. The district’s personal woodcutting permit season is delayed.
- **Sandia Ranger District:** Closed due to extreme fire conditions.

The Cibola's fire restrictions can be found at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/cibola/alerts-notice>

For more information, contact:

Mt. Taylor Ranger District: 505.287.8833

Matt Reidy, District Ranger; e-mail: mreidy@fs.fed.us

Ruth Sutton, Public Affairs Officer

Phone: 505.346.3900; e-mail: rsutton@fs.fed.us

Useful fire websites:

- Cibola National Forest & Grasslands: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/cibola>
- Fire Restrictions: <http://firerestrictions.us/>
- FireWise: www.firewise.org
- New Mexico Fire Information: <http://nmfireinfo.com/>
- Southwest Coordination Center: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/>
- National Interagency Fire Center: www.nifc.gov
- National Incident Information Center: www.fs.fed.us/news/fire