



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Modoc National Forest

225 West 8th Street
Alturas, Ca 96101
(530) 233-5811
FAX: (530)233-1890
TTY/TDD: (209) 533-0765
225 West 8th Street

File Code: 1010
Route To: (1950)

Date: July 17,
2025

Subject: Forest Order No. 09-25-02 Fire Restrictions

To: Project Files

From: Christopher Bielecki,
Forest Supervisor

I am issuing Forest Order No. 09-25-02 as I have determined that it is necessary to issue fire restrictions within the Modoc National Forest to protect natural resources and to provide for public and employee safety by reducing risk of large-scale wildfires as our firefighting resources are spread thin across the western United States due to many large, active incidents. This Order will prohibit campfires on the Modoc National Forest except in the designated recreation sites listed in exhibit A. This Forest Order will be in effect from **July 18, 2025, through December 31, 2025.**

California has seen many large, catastrophic wildfires affecting numerous communities, adversely impacting all the residents of this great state. Modoc National Forest includes lands in portions of three California counties: Modoc, Lassen, and Siskiyou.

Human-caused ignitions are a significant fire management challenge for the Forest and unintentional human-caused ignitions far outnumber intentional ones. When a forest fire ignites, the proximity of the Forest to population centers and communities within the wildland-urban interface creates a situation in which the potential for catastrophic property damage and loss of life is high. In California, over the past ten years, escaped campfires have accounted for igniting 25% of all wildfires. Reducing the number of these starts will best enable us to successfully suppress the fires that do occur while protecting the safety of our employees and the community.

Our priority is to protect the health and well-being of our first responders and the public. This means that we are taking additional precautions now to prevent wildfire ignitions on the forest. These precautions include assessing the current availability of firefighting resources, reviewing the methods by which the agency fights fires, and issuing fire restrictions.

Based on weather and fuel conditions, I have determined that it is necessary to issue a Forest Order restricting ignition source on the Modoc National Forest. The following criteria indicates the need for forest-wide fire restrictions (FSH 5109.18):

- Burn Index (BI) is 82+ for three consecutive days with predicted stable or upward trend:



- Beginning on July 8th, 2025, the BI was 74, on July 9th, 2025, the BI was 65 and on July 10th, 2025, the BI was 53. The outlook shows a warming and drying trend where this pattern will continue.
- Live fuel moisture is <100% in manzanita for brush fuel types:
 - The long-term weather forecast suggests that we are entering a drier and warmer weather pattern, which will result in live fuel moistures continuing to drop. Currently, bitter brush sits at 139%, Sage Pit River at 114%, Sugar Hill at 159%.
- Dead 1,000-hour fuels are <14% in the Timber Fuel Model:
 - The 1,000-hour fuels are below the <14% threshold, the 1,000-hour fuel moisture at the data collection site is currently 10% for the Forest. With current weather conditions and projections for the months of July, August and September, the sample location should remain below 12%. The larger geographical area is at or below this threshold as well.

A combination of this data, and with a shortage of local suppression resources available to respond to new incidents indicate a need for restricting potential fire-causing activities.

This order includes an exemption for persons holding a Forest Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order (Form FS-7700-48). Authorization under this exemption will only be provided if I or my delegate determine that the risk to public health and safety and to natural resources is reasonable considering the circumstances of the request.

In preparing this order, the following entities have been contacted or have otherwise offered their support of this action: CALFIRE, OES, Modoc County Sheriff, Modoc County Public Health, NPS, USFWS, and BLM.

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 CFR § 220.6(d)(1) – prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public 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. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.

Christopher Bielecki
Forest Supervisor
Modoc National Forest

FOREST ORDER NO. 09-25-02
USDA FOREST SERVICE
MODOC NATIONAL FOREST
FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(a), and to provide for public safety and protect natural resources, the following acts are prohibited within the Modoc National Forest. This Order is effective from July 18, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire anywhere other than in the Designated Recreation Sites listed in Exhibit A. 36 C.F.R. § 261.52(a).
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or a building, within the Designated Recreation Sites listed in Exhibit A, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material. 36 C.F.R. § 261.52(d).
3. Welding, or operating an acetylene or other torch with open flame. 36 C.F.R. § 261.52(h).
4. Operating an internal combustion engine, except on National Forest System roads or trails, or within the Designated Recreation Sites listed in Exhibit A. 36 C.F.R. § 261.52(g).

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with a Forest Service Permit No. FS-7700-48 (Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order), specifically exempting them from this Order.
2. Persons with a valid California Campfire Permit are not exempt from the prohibitions listed above. However, persons with a valid California Campfire Permit may use a portable stove or lantern using gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel.
3. Persons with a Forest Service Special Use Permit for a recreation residence on the Modoc National Forest are exempt from Prohibition Nos. 1, 2, and 4, only while at their recreation residences.
4. Persons with a valid Forest Service fuelwood permit are not exempt from the prohibitions listed above. However, persons with a valid Forest Service fuelwood permit may use a chainsaw to cut fuelwood, provided that the cutting is done in compliance with the terms of the permit.
5. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire-fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions found in 36 C.F.R. 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 U.S.C. § 551 and 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559, 3571 and 3581.

Executed in Alturas, California this 18th day of July 2025.









Christopher Bilecki
Forest Supervisor
Modoc National Forest

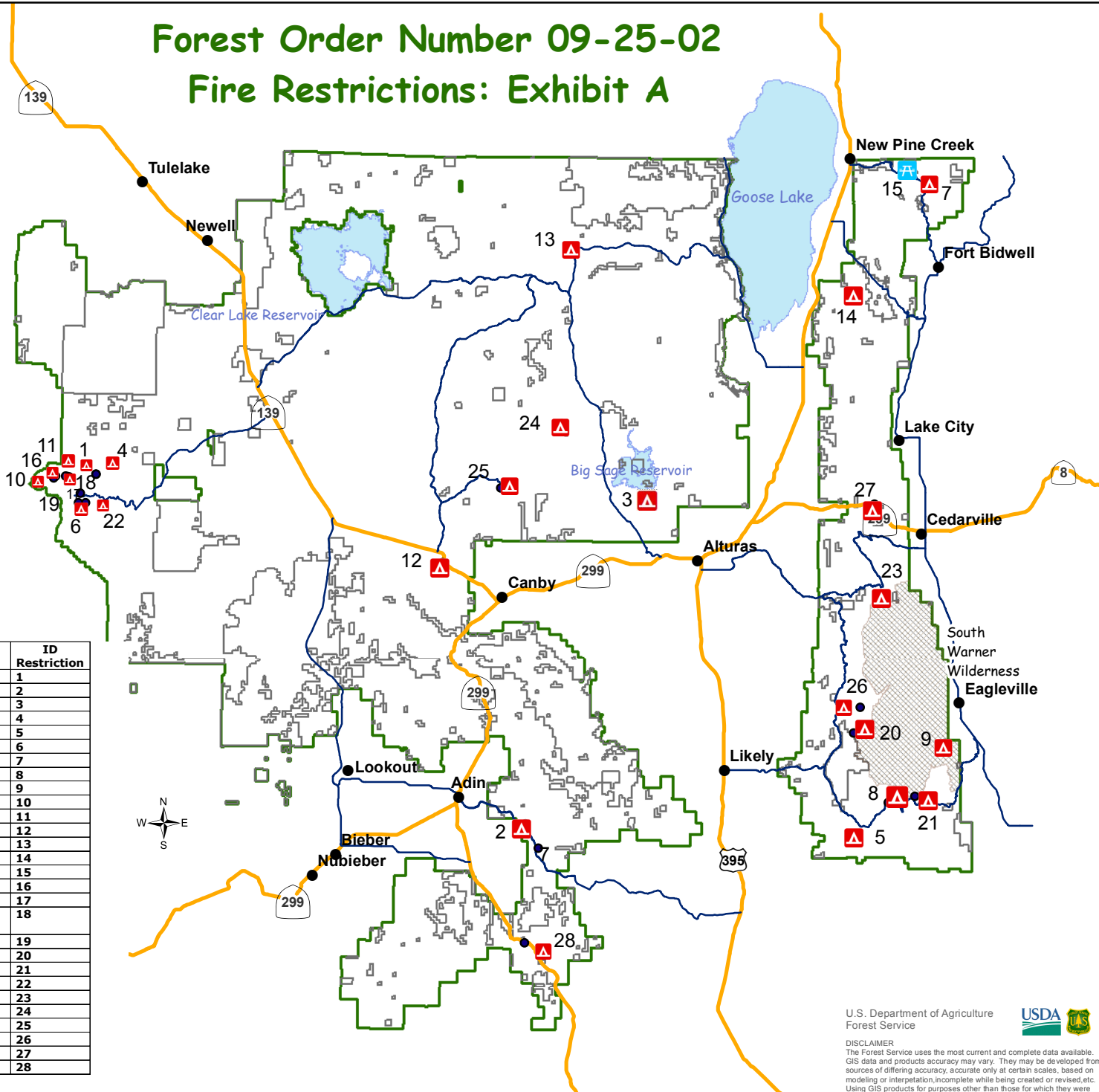
EXHIBIT A

Developed Recreation Sites for Modoc National Forest

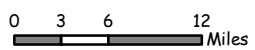
Forest Order Number 09-25-02 Fire Restrictions: Exhibit A

LEGEND


-  CAMPGROUND
-  PICNIC SITE
-  Wilderness
-  Forest Boundary
-  Non-Forest
-  Lakes
-  Roads
-  Highway






ID	Restriction
A.H. HOGUE CAMPGROUND	1
ASH CREEK CAMPGROUND	2
BIG SAGE CAMPGROUND	3
BLANCHE LAKE CAMPGROUND	4
BLUE LAKE CAMPGROUND	5
BULLSEYE LAKE CAMPGROUND	6
CAVE LAKE CAMPGROUND	7
EAST CREEK CAMPGROUND	8
EMERSON CAMPGROUND	9
HEADQUARTERS CAMPGROUND	10
HEMLOCK CAMPGROUND	11
HOWARD'S GULCH CAMPGROUND	12
JANES RESERVOIR CAMPGROUND	13
LASSEN CREEK CAMPGROUND	14
LILY LAKE DAY USE AREA (FS-PROVIDED GRILLS ONLY)	15
LITTLE MEDICINE LAKE CAMPGROUND	16
MEDICINE LAKE CAMPGROUND	17
MEDICINE LAKE DAY USE AREA (FS-PROVIDED GRILLS ONLY)	18
MEDICINE LAKE SWIM BEACH	19
MILL CREEK FALLS CAMPGROUND	20
PATTERSON CAMPGROUND	21
PAYNES SPRINGS CAMPGROUND	22
PEPPERDINE CAMPGROUND	23
RESERVOIR C CAMPGROUND	24
RESERVOIR F CAMPGROUND	25
SOUP SPRINGS CAMPGROUND	26
STOUGH RESERVOIR CAMPGROUND	27
WILLOW CREEK DAY USE	28



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service



DISCLAIMER
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CAMPFIRE REQUIREMENTS	FIRE RESTRICTIONS	WHEN FIRE RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT	FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
<p align="center">CALIFORNIA CAMPFIRE PERMIT</p> <p align="center"><u>Be Responsible:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear all flammable material away from the fire for a minimum of five feet in all directions to prevent escape of the fire. • Have a shovel and water next to your fire for preparing and extinguishing campfires. • Have a responsible person in attendance at all times. • Extinguish your campfire before you leave using the DROWN, STIR, and FEEL method. <p>DROWN it with water and dirt, STIR making sure all burning materials are extinguished, and FEEL it to make sure it is "DEAD OUT"!</p> <p>Definition: A <u>campfire</u> is a fire which is used for cooking, personal warmth, lighting, ceremonial, or esthetic purposes that is not within a building, mobile home or living accommodation mounted on a motor vehicle. Campfires include wood fires, charcoal fires, and portable gas stoves using gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel.</p> <p>Liability: You are liable for the cost of suppression and damages caused by any wildfire that starts through your negligence.</p>	<p>RULES AND REGULATIONS During the summer season, when temperatures rise and forest vegetation dries, special fire restrictions may be imposed due to the increased threat of destructive wildfires.</p> <p>Please Refer to Forest Order No. 09-25-02</p> <p><u>The following acts are prohibited on the Modoc National Forest within the timeframes specified in Forest Order No. 09-25-02.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire, <u>except</u> in the South Warner Wilderness or in the Designated Recreation Sites listed and shown in Exhibit A to Forest Order No. 09-25-51. 2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or a building, within the Designated Recreation Sites listed and shown in Exhibit A to Forest Order 09-22-01, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material. 3. Welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with an open flame. 4. Operating an internal combustion engine, except on National Forest System roads or trails, or within the Designated Recreation Sites listed and shown in Exhibit A to Forest Order No. 09-25-02. 5. Using an explosive. 6. Possessing, discharging, or using any kind of firework or other pyrotechnic device. 7. Operating or using any internal or external combustion engine without a spark arresting device that is properly installed, maintained and in effective working order in accordance with U.S. Forest Service Standard 5100-1a. 	<p align="center">WATCH FOR THESE SIGNS</p> <p align="center">  </p> <p align="center">Or</p> <p align="center">  </p> <p align="center">Campfires are only allowed in the Designated Recreation Sites listed and shown in Exhibit A to Forest Order No. 09-25-02 and should only be built in existing fire rings.</p> <p><u>Persons with a California Campfire Permit are not exempt from the Fire Restrictions.</u> However, persons with a valid California Campfire Permit may use a portable gas or liquefied-petroleum lantern or stove with a fuel shut off valve outside of Designated Recreation Sites.</p> <p align="center">REPORT FIRES 530-233-4581 530-640-1868 OR 911</p>	<p align="center">Modoc National Forest</p> <p align="center">Supervisors Office & Devil's Garden Ranger District 225 W 8th Street Alturas, CA 96101 (530) 233-5811</p> <p align="center">Big Valley Ranger District 508 S Main St. Adin, CA 96006 (530) 299-3215</p> <p align="center">Doublehead Ranger District 49870 Hwy 139 Tulelake, CA 96134 (530) 667-2246</p> <p align="center">Warner Mountain Ranger District 710 Townsend St. Cedarville, CA 96104 (530) 279-6116</p> <p align="center">  United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region Modoc National Forest </p> <p>The policy of the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, or disability, familial status, or political affiliation. Persons believing they have been discriminated against in any Forest Service related activity should write to: Chief, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090</p>