



### Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands

2113 Osuna Road NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87113  
(505) 346-3900  
[www.fs.usda.gov/cibola](http://www.fs.usda.gov/cibola)  
[www.facebook.com/cibolanf](https://www.facebook.com/cibolanf)  
[twitter.com/cibola\\_nf](https://twitter.com/cibola_nf)

Media Contact: Patricia E. Johnson  
[SM.FS.CibolaPAO@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FS.CibolaPAO@usda.gov)  
O: 505-346-3894  
C: 505-850-2657

## Stage 1 Fire Restrictions will be implemented on May 24<sup>th</sup> Due to Extreme Drought, High Fire Danger

Order No. 03-0713

**Albuquerque, NM – May 21, 2021** – Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands (NF & NGs) will implement Stage 1 fire restrictions to reduce the risk of human-caused wildfire during extreme drought conditions, historically low fuel moisture levels and high fire danger. This Order (03-0713) will be in effect at 8:00 AM on Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and shall remain in effect until December 31, 2021, or until rescinded, whichever occurs first. This effects the counties of Cibola, McKinley, Socorro, Catron, Sierra, Torrance, Valencia, Bernalillo, Sandoval, Lincoln, Harding, Colfax, Union and Mora within the State of New Mexico, Dallam County within the State of Texas, and Cimarron County within the State of Oklahoma.

Fire restrictions are an important tool to help prevent or limit human-caused wildfires. The Lincoln and Gila National Forests implemented Stage 1 fire restrictions in April. The Santa Fe National Forest plans to implement Stage 1 fire restrictions on the westside districts, including the popular Jemez Ranger District, on May 24.

Fire restrictions for the Cibola NF & NGs include allowing campfires only in designated developed campgrounds and picnic areas and **must** be in a Forest Service provided metal grill or metal fire pits. Fires in rock rings will not be allowed. The use of pressurized, petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns or heating devices are acceptable, provided they meet the fire underwriter's specifications for safety. Smoking is limited to a vehicle, building, or three-foot area cleared of all flammable materials. Fireworks, explosives, and incendiary devices are **always** prohibited on National Forest System lands.

Order 03-0713: Cibola NF & NGs Stage 1 Fire Restriction in effect May 24, 2021 for the following district locations. **Reference maps attached as Exhibits A & B .**

Magdalena Ranger District

Mountainair Ranger District

Mt. Taylor Ranger District

Sandia Ranger District

Kiowa and Rita Blanca Ranger District

Note: The Kiowa Mill Unit area remains in Stage 2 Fire Restriction under the previously announced order #03-0711 that started March 12, 2021. **Map attached 03-0711 Exhibit A.**

To view Forest Order 03-0713: Cibola NF & NGs Stage 1 Fire Restrictions, please go to Cibola www at [Alerts & Notices](#).

Forest managers use several criteria to determine when to implement restrictions, including current and predicted weather, fuel moisture, fire activity levels and available firefighting resources. Fire staff are already considering the possibility of moving to Stage 2 fire restrictions, which ban campfires entirely, if conditions warrant it.

Forest visitors are asked to use extreme caution when fire restrictions are in place. Violations are punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations and/or by imprisonment for not more than six months. Fire prevention and law enforcement will be patrolling, and anyone who violates Stage 1 restrictions will be ticketed.

A new [Southwest Area Fire Restrictions Map](#) was recently released. The map is a culmination of work from federal, state, and local agencies who hope to explain to the public where it is safe to have fires and where it's not. The map shows all fire restrictions in New Mexico and Arizona, regardless of jurisdiction.

All fire updates will be posted on the [Cibola NF & NGs website](#), [New Mexico Fire Information website](#) and on the Cibola [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#) pages.

**For more information on Cibola NF & NGs fire restrictions:**

Magdalena Ranger District Office: 575-854-2281.

Mountainair Ranger District Office: 505-847-2990

Mt. Taylor Ranger District Office: 505-287-8833

Sandia Ranger District Office: 505-281-3304

Kiowa and Rita Blanca Ranger District Office: 575-374-9652

Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands Supervisor's Office: 505-346-3900

###

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*