

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service Sierra National Forest



June 28, 2013

CLOVIS, CA – As of July 2, 2013, the Sierra National Forest will be implementing fire restrictions forest-wide. Higher temperatures, dry fuel conditions and an increase in fire activity on the forest and nationwide has led to this decision.

“Conditions on the forest, the anticipation of a continued active fire season, and the recent fire activity observed during the Carstens Fire, confirm that it will take diligence by all of us to prevent wildfires. The Carstens Fire was started by an abandoned campfire outside of a developed campground,” stated Joseph Reyes, Fire Management Officer for the Sierra National Forest.

Restrictions are in place in all areas on the Sierra National Forest, including the wilderness (Areas 528, 529, 532, and 533).

Fire Restrictions Prohibit:

- **Open flame fires.** Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire (except a portable stove using gas or pressurized liquid) outside of designated recreation sites. The list of these designated sites are available at the offices listed below.
- **Smoking,** except in an enclosed vehicle or in an approved developed campground. Smoking while hiking, horseback riding, or while riding in an open vehicle is prohibited.
- **Operation of an internal combustion engine,** except on a road, designated trail or by special use permit. A road is defined as a motor vehicle route over 50 inches wide. A sign or marker indicates a trail.
- **Blasting or welding,** except by special use permit. Please contact your local Ranger Station for more information.
- **Open burning** (e.g. weeds, brush and yard debris).
- **Restrictions on chain saw use.** Chainsaw use for firewood cutting will be regulated by the wood cutting permit. Please make sure to contact the 24-hour fire weather information line at 559-346-1525. The recording is revised daily at 5:00 pm.

For more information please contact the Forest Service Offices in Clovis at 559-297-0706, North Fork at 559-877-2218, and Prather at 559-855-5355.

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