**News Release**

**For Immediate Release:  May 30, 2014**

**Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest:** Carson Ranger District, 775-882-2766 or Bridgeport Ranger District, 760-932-7070

**Bureau of Land Management,** Carson City District, Contact: Lisa Ross, 775-885-6107

**Fire Restrictions in Western Nevada Start May 30 for Forest Service & BLM**

**CARSON CITY, Nevada…**Exceptionally dry dead and live fuel moistures in the mixed conifer stands west of Highway 395, lingering drought conditions, increasing daytime temperatures and some human-caused fires have prompted the Carson and Bridgeport Ranger Districts of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, and  to announce the implementation of fire restrictions on Friday, May 30, 2014, at 12:01 a.m., and lasting until further notice.

Timber vegetation in western Nevada and eastern California is significantly dryer for this time of year.  The lack of snowpack this past winter has also lead to large areas of frost killed brush. This included with below average precipitation this past winter and spring and a third consecutive year of drought has led to abnormal low soil and fuel moistures, which contribute to greater resistance to control of any fire ignitions and increased potential for large and potentially devastating wildfires.

The public is encouraged to safely enjoy the public lands, and recalling that human-caused fires annually threaten human life, private property and public land resources every summer.

The potential for another devastating fire during the summer is very real.  Report fires to the Interagency Dispatch Center, Minden, Nevada, **(775) 883-5995**, or dial **9-1-1**.

**Fire Restrictions Prohibit:**

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire (using wood, charcoal or any other material), campfire, or stove fire except a portable stove using gas or pressurized liquid fuel, outside of a developed fee campground or picnic area (except by permit).

2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or at a developed campground or picnic area.

3. Welding, or operating an acetylene torch with open flames, except by permit.

4. Using or causing to be used, any explosive, except by permit.

5. Possession or use of fireworks (always prohibited), or any other incendiary device.

6. Use of tracer rounds, steel-core ammunition or exploding targets including Binary Explosive Targets while recreational shooting.

7. Open burning (e.g. weeds, brush and yard debris).

In addition, the Nevada Division of Forestry restrictions within the Sierra Fire Protection District, and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest prohibit operating vehicles off of existing hard surface gravel roads or dirt roads in wildland areas, and operating vehicles or equipment traveling on or using wildland areas without at least an axe, shovel and one gallon of water.  All agencies recommend avoiding cross-country travel whenever possible to prevent grass from igniting from hot exhaust systems and recommend that individuals carry cell phones while in the wildlands or national forests to report wild fires.

**Affected Areas:**

**Forest Service** – all areas, roads and trails within the Carson and Bridgeport Ranger Districts on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest with the exception of using campfires within the approved fire pits or grills provided in open Fee Recreation sites.

**Affected Areas:**

**BLM** -all public land areas, roads and trails located west of highway 395 within and administered by the BLM-Nevada Carson City District Office, with the exception of Indian Creek Campground where there are designated fire pits and campfires are permitted.

All public land areas, roads and trails located east of highway 395 within and administered by the BLM-Nevada Carson City District Office are not affected by fire restrictions at this time.

Citizens are reminded that the charcoal grills cannot be used during fire restrictions. Charcoal burns longer and hotter than wood and may appear to be cold; however, embers can linger for hours. Winds can spread the embers from charcoal and campfires into vegetation, igniting a wildfire.  Propane or white gas stoves, however, are acceptable for use during fire restrictions.

As fire season continues the USFS and BLM will be aggressively citing those who do not comply with the posted restrictions and those who use or possess fireworks. Violation of these prohibitions is subject to punishment by a fine of not more than $10,000 or imprisonment for not more than six months or both, as Class B misdemeanors under federal law (agency statutes vary). Persons may also be responsible for resource damage, suppression costs and any injuries that occur if they are found liable for causing a wildfire.

For more information or clarification on the restrictions, please contact the respective area(s) that you have questions about:  the BLM-Carson City District Office at 775-885-6000, the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest’s Carson Ranger District, 775-882-2766, or the Bridgeport Ranger District at 760-932-7070.

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