



NEWS RELEASE

Apache–Sitgreaves National Forests

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests to Start Campfire Restrictions

Springerville, AZ....Effective Wednesday, May 21, 2008, at 8:00 am campfires and charcoal fires will only be allowed in certain developed campgrounds on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. These Stage 1 restrictions also prohibit:

- the use of charcoal or wood in a campfire outside of certain developed campgrounds,
- smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area that is at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material

Fireworks are always prohibited on the national forests. Violations of these restrictions are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations or imprisonment for up to six months, or both.

Campfires and charcoal fires are allowed at the following recreation areas:

- Alpine Ranger District – Alpine Divide, Diamond Rock, Aspen, Horse Spring, Buffalo Crossing, Deer Creek, Raccoon, Hannagan, KP Cienega, and Luna Lake;
- Black Mesa Ranger District – Sinkhole, Canyon Point, Spillway, Aspen, Woods Canyon Group Site, Mogollon, Black Canyon Rim, Rim, and Gentry;
- Clifton Ranger District – Coal Creek, Black Jack, Upper and Lower Juan Miller, Strayhorse, Honeymoon, and Granville;
- Springerville Ranger District – Hoyer, Benny Creek, Rainbow, Cutthroat, Grayling, and Brookchar;
- Lakeside Ranger District – Scott Reservoir, Lakeside, Fool Hollow, and Los Burros.

Gas stoves, heaters, and lanterns are permitted throughout the Forests provided such devices meet the fire underwriter's specifications for safety.

As a reminder, Highway 273 from Sunrise to Crescent Lake is being re-constructed this summer so Highway 273 is closed. Sheep Crossing and the East and West Fork trailheads of the Baldy Wilderness remain closed this summer. Travelers to the Big Lake area should use Highway 261, the Mexican Hay Lake road.

These restrictions will remain in place until sufficient moisture is received across the Apache-Sitgreaves. For more information about fire restrictions on public lands in Arizona call toll-free 1-877-864-6985 or visit the web at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/>. For information on current fires in Apache or Navajo counties dial 593 (928-333-3412) or visit the web at www.593info.org. Additional information about activities on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests is available on line at: www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf.

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