

# Forest Service News Release

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[www.fs.usda.gov/r02/sanjuan](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/sanjuan)

## Stage 2 fire restrictions effective July 1

*San Juan National Forest and partners implement fire restrictions due to critical conditions*

**Durango, CO, July 1, 2026** – Based on recent wildfire activity and persistent severe fire weather conditions, San Juan National Forest staff will implement Stage 2 fire restrictions forest-wide at 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, July 1, 2026 ([see full Forest Order and map](#)). Fire 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 restrictions are designed to protect public safety and our areas natural resources. Southwest Colorado is in extended drought with continued hot, dry weather creating a critical fire environment.

Stage 2 restrictions on the San Juan National Forest PROHIBIT:

1. Igniting, building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, charcoal barbecue, or grill, except if using a device solely fueled by liquid or gas that can be turned on and off in an area barren or cleared of all flammable materials within three feet of the device.
2. Smoking, except in an enclosed vehicle or building.
3. Welding or operating an acetylene or other torch with open flame.
4. Using an explosive.

Visitors may use stoves, grills and lanterns fueled by propane or other liquid petroleum gas (LPG) fuels that meet manufacturer's safety specifications. If you plan to visit the forest, be sure to practice vehicle safety guidelines by securing chains, checking tire pressure and properly maintaining your brakes.

Temporary restrictions will remain in place until further notice and may be increased or reduced at any time due to changes in weather and fire danger. To learn more about fire restrictions, fuels management, and other wildfire related issues, visit our [fire information webpage](#).

**Fire Restrictions Do Not Prevent Wildfires.** It is every forest visitor's and camper's responsibility to prevent wildfires. 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, or both. Fire prevention and law enforcement will be patrolling, and anyone who violates Stage 2 restrictions will be ticketed.

To report a fire, call 9-1-1. For information on the San Juan National Forest, call (970) 247-4874, visit the [forest website](#), or follow us on social media ([Facebook](#)).

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Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

San Juan National Forest

# STAGE 2 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

*The current restrictions are in effect starting Wednesday July 1, 2026 at 12:01 a.m. unless rescinded.*



**PROHIBITED:** Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire, including charcoal, coal, and briquettes. This includes smudge pots and wood stoves.



**PERMITTED:** Using a stove or grill that is solely fueled by pressurized liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can quickly be turned off.



**PROHIBITED:** Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, trailer, or building.



**PROHIBITED:** Possessing or using a motor vehicle off established roads, motorized trails, or parking areas.



**ALWAYS PROHIBITED:** Operating or using any internal combustion engine or chainsaw without an approved spark arrestor.



**ALWAYS PROHIBITED:** Using explosives, including fireworks, flares, exploding targets, or other incendiary devices.



**PROHIBITED:** Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame.



Full text of the Forest Order (02-13-00-26-10) is available online and at Forest Service offices. Scan the QR code for current fire restrictions and prohibitions.

**San Juan National Forest**

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