



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Carson National Forest

Forest Service News Release

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Carson National Forest to Implement Stage 1 Fire Restrictions

Campfires and Smoking Will be Prohibited With Some Exemptions

Taos, NM, April 22, 2026—Due to record low snowpack, worsening drought conditions and increasing fire danger, Carson National Forest fire managers will implement Stage 1 fire restrictions on April 24 to reduce the ignition risk of human-caused wildfires.

“A few storms helped keep conditions at bay over the last month, but we’ve finally arrived at the point where extra precautions are needed,” said Fire and Fuels Staff Officer Jamie Long. “Whether you’re out enjoying the forest or at home working in the yard, please be extremely careful with anything that can produce a spark.”

The restrictions prohibit campfires and smoking with some exemptions, including:

- Fires, including charcoal and briquettes, are allowed inside a fire structure that is provided by the Forest Service within developed recreation sites.
- Smoking will be allowed only in enclosed vehicles or buildings, at developed recreation sites or while standing in an area at least three feet in diameter that has been cleared of all flammable material.

The forest order, which includes a full list of exemptions, is available on the forest’s [fire restrictions and prohibitions webpage](#), where visitors can additionally view year-round prohibitions, such as a ban on fireworks and other pyrotechnic devices.

Fire prevention tips are also [available online](#).

Violations of fire restrictions 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 cited.

About the Forest Service: The USDA Forest Service has for more than 100 years brought people and communities together to answer the call of conservation. Grounded in world-class science and technology—and rooted in communities—the Forest Service connects people to nature and to each other. The Forest Service cares for shared natural resources in ways that promote lasting economic, ecological, and social vitality. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, maintains the largest wildland fire and forestry research organizations in the world. The Forest Service also has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 900 million forested acres within the U.S., of which over 130 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

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