



## Forest Service News Release

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### Stage 2 fire restrictions effective August 8

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

**Durango, Colo., August 7, 2025** – Based on recent wildfire activity and persistent severe fire weather conditions, San Juan National Forest Fire Management staff will implement Stage 2 fire restrictions, including wilderness, at 12:01 a.m., August 8. ([see full Forest Order and map](#)). Forest 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 area 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. 36 CFR § 261.52(a)
2. Smoking, except in an enclosed vehicle or building. 36 CFR § 261.52(d)
3. Welding or operating an acetylene or other torch with open flame. 36 CFR § 261.52(h)
4. Using an explosive. 36 C.F.R. § 261.52(b)

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 follow best practices, properly maintain and extinguish campfires 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 ([X](#) and [Facebook](#)).

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