

U.S. Forest Service Inyo National Forest 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200 Bishop, CA 93514 News Release July 27, 2016 Media Contact: Deb Schweizer (760) 873-2427 <u>debraaschweizer@fs.fed.us</u> <u>www.facebook.com/inyonf</u> Twitter: @inyoinfo



Inyo National Forest Announces Further Fire Restrictions

The Inyo National Forest is expanding fire restrictions to include wilderness areas of the Inyo National Forest. Previously, certain wilderness areas had been exempted.

Beginning on Friday July 29, the following restrictions will be in effect:

- **No campfires**, briquette barbeques, or stove fires are allowed outside of designated developed recreation sites and specifically posted campsites or areas. A list of designated campgrounds and recreation sites is available at visitor centers, and on the website http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd511823.pdf.
- Persons with a **valid California Campfire Permit** (available free of charge at visitor center or online athttp://www.preventwildfireca.org/Campfire-Permit/) are not exempt from the prohibitions but are allowed to use portable stoves or lanterns using gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel.
- No fireworks. It is prohibited to possess or discharge any fireworks.
- **No smoking,** except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.

Resorts, pack stations, recreation residences and other sites operated under special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service may be exempt from the special orders, as long as any fire activity is conducted in compliance with their permit.

Residents and visitors are reminded that fireworks, even "safe and sane" are not allowed at any time on public lands.

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The mission of the U.S. Forest Service, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.