

# NEWS

For Immediate Release

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## FIRE RESTRICTIONS LIFTED ON THE MOUNTAINAIR RANGER DISTRICT AND KIOWA AND RITA BLANCA NATIONAL GRASSLANDS

**MOUNTAINAIR NM, June 23, 2009** - Cibola National Forest officials will lift Fire Restrictions on the Mountainair Ranger District and the Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands effective Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m. Fire danger has decreased due to moisture and higher humidity over much of the Forest. Although restrictions are lifted, visitors are reminded to be careful with their campfires and/or the use of chainsaws.

Forest Supervisor Nancy Rose thanks the public for their patience and support during restrictions. Having fire restrictions in place has effectively minimized human caused fires throughout both districts. Firefighters maintained a high state of readiness and responded to several small fires throughout the districts as well as assisted on several state fires while under restrictions. "Local communities have been exceptionally supportive of the restrictions and closures. We would like to thank everyone for their patience," said Forest Supervisor Nancy Rose.

The public is reminded that campfire safety is still of concern year round. Visitors need to follow fire safety precautions when recreating in the forest. If you have a campfire, please abide by the following rules:

- Build campfires away from overhanging branches, steep slopes, rotten stumps, logs, dry grass, pine needles and leaves. Pile extra wood away from the fire.
- Clear the area down to bare soil.
- Keep your campfire safe and small, especially when it's windy.
- Never leave your campfire unattended.
- Drown the fire with water & dirt, stir remains, add more water and dirt, and stir again.
- Do not bury coals as they can smolder and re-ignite later.
- Make sure your fire is dead out before leaving.
- **The use of fireworks of any kind is strictly prohibited on all National Forest lands.**

For current fire restriction information, visit our website at [www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola). For fire restrictions and other fire information for recreation sites in New Mexico, log on to [www.nmfireinfo.com](http://www.nmfireinfo.com). For specific information call the Mountainair Ranger District at 505-847-2990 or the Kiowa/Rita Blanca District at 575-374-9652.

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