

NEWS



Forest Service

*United States
Department of
Agriculture*

Lassen National Forest

*2550 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130*

*Contact: Heidi Perry
(530) 252 6604
Leona Rodreick
(530) 252-6605*

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For TDD assistance, please dial (530) 252-6624.

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Lassen National Forest Prepares to Implement Fire Restrictions

The Lassen National Forest is preparing to implement “Fire Restrictions” on National Forest lands. Currently, officials are monitoring the weather and fuel conditions to help make this decision. During periods of critical fire hazard and burning conditions, it may become necessary to restrict the activities of the forest’s users in order to protect public safety and natural resources.

The Lassen NF uses fire restrictions to reduce the risk of human caused fires and the associated resource damage and associated costs.

The following criteria is used to determine when fire restrictions are implemented:

- The critical threshold for 1000-hour time lag fuels is; (woody material that is 3” to 8” in diameter and larger in size), is the moisture content of 14 percent or less.
- The **Burning Index**, which is an indicator of potential difficulty of fire containment, has a critical threshold of 60 or greater.
- When Brush Type Live Fuel Moistures are less than 100 percent out of the 300 percent scale for Manzanita.
- Red Flag fire warnings, as well as critical burning conditions and multiple fires that have depleted fire suppression resources and personnel are also taken into consideration.

Currently, conditions are drier than normal for the 1000-hour fuel moisture and Live Fuel Moisture indicators. Although the amount of rains received recently has brought cooler temperatures, it has had no significant impact on the decreasing fire danger. If this trend continues, it is estimated that fire restrictions will be implemented by the middle of July.

When restrictions are implemented, the following will be in effect:

- Open campfires are not allowed, except in developed recreational campgrounds.
- Woodcutting with chainsaws is prohibited.
- Smoking is confined to enclosed vehicles or developed recreational sites.
- Operation of motorized vehicles is allowed on National Forest road systems only. Driving off roads will not be allowed.

If you have questions, contact your local Lassen National Forest office. Eagle Lake Ranger District at 257-4188, Almanor Ranger District at 258-2141, Hat Creek Ranger District at 336-5521, or Supervisors Office at 257-2151.

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