Order Number: 03-06-00-26-001

U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service
Gila National Forest

Stage 1 Fire Restrictions

PROHIBITIONS

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50 (a) and (b), the following are prohibited on the National Forest System (NFS) lands in the Gila National Forest, described below and shown on the attached map incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A (the "Described Area"):

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire, including charcoal and briquettes, outside a fire structure that is provided by the Forest Service within a Designated Area (Designated Areas are listed in Exhibit B). **36 C.F.R. § 261.52(a).**

2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, at a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three (3) feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material. **36 C.F.R. § 261.52(d).**

EXEMPTIONS

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Holders of Forest Service Special Use Authorizations are exempt from Prohibition #1 above, provided such fires are within a fire structure as defined in Exhibit C and they are within their permitted area.

2. As to Prohibition #1 above, persons using a fire structure in a designated area, as listed in Exhibit B.

3. As to Prohibition #1 above, persons using a stove or grill that is solely fueled by pressurized liquid petroleum or pressurized liquid petroleum gas (LPG) fuels. Such devices can only be used in an area that is barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding flammable materials within 3 feet of the device.

4. Persons with Forest Service Permit No. FS-7700-48 (Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order), specifically exempting them from this Order or a written determination by a Forest Service authorized officer that a permit is not required under 36 C.F.R. § 251.50(e)(1) or (2).

5. Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting resource in the performance of an official duty.

DESCRIBED AREA

All National Forest System lands, roads, and trails within the boundaries of the Gila National Forest, as specifically depicted in Exhibit A.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Order is to protect public health and safety, as well as National Forest System lands, resources, and facilities, by reducing the risk of human-caused wildfires during the current period of high fire danger and severe fire weather conditions.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order shall be in effect from Monday, March 23, 2026, at 0800 through September 30, 2026, at 0800, unless rescinded.

2. A map identifying the Described Area is attached and made part of this Order as Exhibit A. For a digital version of this Order and Exhibit A, go to https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/gila/alerts-notices.

3. Unless otherwise expressly defined in this Order, the terms used in this Order are defined by the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture, 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299. If there are terms in this Order that are not expressly defined in the Order or 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299, their meaning shall be determined by their plain language definitions.

4. A violation of the above prohibitions is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than $5,000 for individuals and $10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 U.S.C. § 551; 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559, 3571, and 3581.

5. Contact the Gila National Forest Supervisor's Office in Silver City, NM, (575) 388-8201, for more information about this Order.

6. This Order supersedes any previous Orders prohibiting the same or similar acts in the same Described Area.

Signed and issued on this 23rd day of March, 2026.

CAMILLE HOWES

Digitally signed by CAMILLE HOWES
Date: 2026.03.18 10:02:17 -06'00'

Camille Howes
Forest Supervisor
Gila National Forest

GILA NATIONAL FOREST EXHIBIT B

THE FOLLOWING DESIGNTED AREAS HAVE APPROPRIATE OR APPROVED FACILITIES (FIRE STRUCTURES) UNDER STAGE 1 RESTRICTIONS:

BLACK RANGE RANGER DISTRICT
Kingston Campground
Wolf Hollow Campground
Monument Park Cabin

QUEMADO RANGER DISTRICT
Armijo Springs Campground
Valle Tio Vinces Campground
Head of the Ditch Campground
El Caso #1-#5 Campgrounds
Pinon Campground
Juniper Campground

GLENWOOD RANGER DISTRICT
Catwalk Picnic Area
Bighorn Campground
Cosmic Campground
Cottonwood Campground
Pueblo Park Campground

WILDERNESS RANGER DISTRICT
Sapillo Group Area Campground
Upper End Campground
Mesa Campground
Lake Roberts Picnic Area
Upper Scorpion Campground
Lower Scorpion Campground

RESERVE RANGER DISTRICT
Apache Creek Campground
South Fork Campground
Gwynn Tank Campground
Negrito Airstrip Camp Area
Willow Creek Campground
Ben Lilly Campground
Dipping Vat Campground
Aeroplane Mesa Campground

SILVER CITY RANGER DISTRICT

Gomez Peak Picnic Area
Little Walnut Picnic Area
Iron Creek Campground
Railroad Canyon Campground
Cherry Creek Campground
McMillen Campground
Upper Gallinas Campground

EXHIBIT C

STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

DEFINITIONS

DESIGNATED AREA: Developed recreation sites such as campgrounds and picnic areas that are maintained and administered by the Forest Service, shown on the current Forest visitor maps, and are equipped with permanent fire structures.

FIRE STRUCTURE: A permanent metal or concrete structure, which is specifically designed for the purpose of containing a campfire or cooking fire that has been installed and maintained by the Forest Service or equivalent.