



NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH • CAROLINA

USDA FOREST SERVICE, 160A ZILICOA STREET, ASHEVILLE, NC 28801

NEWS • RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

CAMPFIRE BAN IMPOSED IN NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Effective immediately, USDA Forest Service officials have banned campfires on all units of the National Forests in North Carolina (NFsNC) until further notice. This restriction is due to the extremely dry conditions occurring across the state and coincides with the statewide burning ban issued August 21, 2007 by the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

This fire ban applies to all fires outside of developed recreation areas. Fires within developed recreation areas are limited to fire pits, grills, or fire rings installed for that specific purpose. Backcountry campers may only use a stove or grill that is solely fueled by liquid petroleum fuels.

Western North Carolina has been particularly hard hit with the drought. As of August 23, rainfall recorded at the Asheville Regional airport since January 1, 2007 is more than 11 inches below normal for this time of year. These dry conditions have led to near record amounts of acreage burned on National Forests in North Carolina. Since January 1, 2007, wildfires have burned over 12,250 acres of the NFsNC. This is over four times the 2,700 acre NFsNC average for an entire year.

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