



NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH • CAROLINA

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

NEWS • RELEASE

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The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Aug. 21 burning ban in North Carolina's national forests is still in effect.

"We continue to have extremely dry conditions across the National Forests in North Carolina, so we're keeping the burning ban in place" said Drag Sharp, assistant fire management officer for the National Forests in North Carolina.

"Our forests have been hit hard with drought this year," said Sharp. "These dry conditions have led to near record amounts of acreage burned on North Carolina's national forests."

Since January, wildfires have burned more than 12,250 acres of the state's national forests. This amount is over four times the 2,700-acre average for an entire year.

“In addition, we’ve entered fall, a season when the risk of wildfire increases,” said the assistant fire management officer. In two or three weeks, most trees will have lost their leaves. Once the trees are barren, the sunlight will further

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dry dead leaves on the forest floor, creating the perfect fuel for wildfire.

What fires are still banned? Any campfires outside of developed recreation areas, such as campgrounds or picnic areas. Fires within developed recreation areas are limited to established fire pits, grills or fire rings.

Backcountry campers or others may use stoves or grills that are solely fueled by liquid petroleum.