



Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit



For Immediate Release
Friday, June 29, 2007

Contact: Lynn Barclay 970-826-5096
Diann Ritschard 970-870-2187

BE A PARTNER IN FIRE PREVENTION THIS JULY 4TH

Craig, CO – The counties and agencies within the Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit area are not planning on enacting fire restrictions for the July 4th holiday. The cooperating agencies and counties are: Bureau of Land Management (BLM); United States Forest Service (USFS); National Park Service (NPS); National Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS); Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) and; Rio Blanco, Moffat, Routt, Jackson, and Grand counties. However, the public is reminded to be careful with any fires and use caution. Fire danger for Routt, Jackson, and Grand counties ranges from high to very high, and is very high to extreme for Moffat and Rio Blanco counties.

“We want people to enjoy their time recreating on all public lands,” said Fire Management Officer Cliff Hutton. “We also depend on their cooperation to handle fires safely so our firefighters are available to respond to the lightning caused fires instead of human caused fires.”

The following safety tips are encouraged to help prevent an unwanted wildfire:

- Remember fireworks are prohibited on many public lands.
- Dispose of cigarettes and matches in an ashtray or other appropriate container.
- Make sure chainsaws have working spark arresters, and carry water, a shovel, and fire extinguisher when cutting firewood.
- Park your vehicle in areas cleared of vegetation. Use caution when accessing areas with tall, dried vegetation as hot mufflers and catalytic converters from vehicles and ATVs may start a fire.
- For campfire safety (including charcoal fire) – keep a shovel and water handy, never leave it unattended (it’s a finable offense), and always put them completely out every time you leave camp. Pour water on the ashes and stir until there is no smoke and ashes are cool to the touch.

Fire restrictions will be implemented July 6, 2007, on the NPS Dinosaur National Monument and FWS Browns Park Refuge. The restrictions will be implemented for public safety and to protect the resources within the Dinosaur National Monument and the Browns Park Refuge.

Stage one restrictions prohibit any open fire or campfire except within NPS provided fire grates at the Green River, Split Mountain, Rainbow Park, Echo Park, Lodore and Deerlodge Park developed campgrounds. Stoves using pressurized gas or liquid fuel is allowed. Building any type of fire in a fire pan is prohibited.

Cigarette smoking is prohibited except within an enclosed vehicle, building, developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren and cleared of all flammable material.

No open fires of any type will be allowed on the Browns Park Refuge. Stoves using pressurized gas or liquid fuel is allowed. Smoking is allowed only within an enclosed vehicle, building or while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren and cleared of all flammable material.

Contact the managing agency in the area you plan to visit before leaving home so you’ll be prepared for current conditions or restrictions. Go to <http://www.dola.state.co.us/oem/> for state wide fire restriction information.

-Please see Note-

Note: Please call your local Sheriff's Department and land management agencies for quotes or more information to tie in with this story.

