



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
Southern Ute Agency  
P.O. Box 315  
Ignacio, Colorado 81137



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, May 8, 2020

## **SOUTHERN UTE RESERVATION INITIATES STAGE I FIRE RESTRICTIONS**

Ignacio, CO – Due to the current high temperatures, dry fuel conditions and occurrence of recent wildland fires, Stage 1 fire restrictions have been implemented for all trust lands throughout the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. Everyone on reservation lands is asked to be very cautious and use common sense with fire this time of year.

Stage I Fire Restrictions prohibits acts for the general public, commercial operators and industrial oil and gas operators performing work on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.

### **STAGE I General Public:**

#### **Prohibited acts:**

1. **OPEN BURNING.** Burning of trash and/or yard waste is prohibited.
2. **AGRICULTURAL BURNING.** Burning of crop land, fields, rangeland, debris burning, slash piles, prescribed burning and weed burning are prohibited.
3. **CAMP FIRES.** Building, maintaining or using a warming fire or campfire outside of officially designated or developed camp sites is prohibited. The fire restrictions do not include charcoal fires (in suitable containers) for barbeques or fires for sweat ceremonies, however, such fires are not to be left unattended and are to be fully extinguished after use.
4. **FIREWORKS.** Possession, discharging or use of any type or fireworks is prohibited.

Commercial and Industrial restrictions can be obtained from the BIA Fire Office at 575 County Road 517 or by calling (970) 563-4571.

Anyone violating the provisions of this fire ban may be subject to prosecution outlined in the Southern Ute Indian Criminal Code.

**The Restrictions will become effective at 06:00 A.M., Monday, May 11, 2020 and will remain in effect until conditions improve.**

To report fires contact:

**DURANGO ZONE DISPATCH (970) 385-1324**

For more info or to report Fire Restriction Violations contact:

**BIA FIRE MANAGEMENT (970) 563-4571 OR SOUTHERN UTE POLICE  
DEPARTMENT (970) 563-4401**

###

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-119

RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBAL COUNCIL  
June 26, 2012

**WHEREAS**, authority is vested in the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council by the Constitution adopted by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and approved November 4, 1936, and amended October 1, 1975, and August 27, 1991, to act for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe; and

**WHEREAS**, under Article VII, section 1(e) of the Tribe's Constitution, the Tribal Council may enact ordinances and codes to protect the peace, safety, property, health and general welfare of the members of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe; and

**WHEREAS**, under Article VII, section 1(n) of the Tribe's Constitution, the Tribal Council is empowered to protect and preserve the property, wildlife, and natural resources of the Tribe; and

**WHEREAS**, as a means to protect the property, health, general welfare, and natural resources of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Southern Ute Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs from time to time issues fire restrictions that prohibit certain acts by the general public and commercial entities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribe has adopted a Wildlife Conservation Code that includes the following provision:

§ 13-3-147 Omnibus Provision. It shall be unlawful to commit any act *declared to be unlawful by a regulation of the Tribal Council* or to violate the provision of proclamations or wildlife regulations. (Emphasis added); and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council wishes to clarify that fire restrictions issued by the Southern Ute Agency are enforceable by all tribal law enforcement agencies as regulations of the Tribal Council and that violation of such regulations is unlawful and may subject anyone committing such a violation to punishment through the Tribal Court.

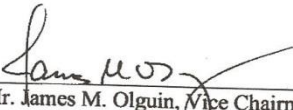
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council declares that fire restrictions issued by the Southern Ute Agency are regulations of the Tribal Council, violations of which are unlawful and may be punishable in accordance with the Tribe's Wildlife Conservation Code.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that, upon the lifting of such fire restrictions by the Southern Ute Agency, the terms of this resolution will no longer apply.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Chairman of the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council is hereby delegated the authority to execute all documents necessary to carry out the

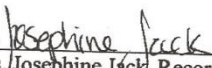
purpose of this resolution.  
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This resolution was duly adopted on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2012.

  
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Mr. James M. Olguin, Vice Chairman  
Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council

**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that there were ( 6 ) of the regularly elected Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council members present at the above meeting, at which ( 5 ) voted for, and ( 0 ) against, it being a quorum and the above resolution was passed, the Chairman not being permitted to vote in this instance due to a Constitutional provision

  
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Ms. Josephine Jack, Recording Secretary  
Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council