



IN REPLY REFER TO:
Fire Management

United States Department of the Interior
UNITED STATES WILDLAND FIRE SERVICE
Southern Ute Agency
575 County Road 517
Ignacio, Colorado 81137-0315

2026 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

The Bureau of Indian Affairs and United States Wildland Fire Service recommend the following attached Stage II fire restrictions begin effective June 19, 2026, at 0600 hours until further notice.

This action is necessary due to high fire danger, resulting from the prolonged hot and dry conditions we are experiencing.

Any exemptions to the fire restrictions must be requested in writing to the Superintendent, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern Ute Agency.

Stage II Restrictions implemented:

Date: June 19, 2026

Marvin
Pinnecoose

Digitally signed by Marvin
Pinnecoose
Date: 2026.06.18
16:10:18 -0600

Chairman, Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Date

Digitally signed by Marvin Pinnecoose
Date: 2026.06.18 16:10:18 -0600

06/16/2026

Superintendent, Southern Ute Agency
(Acting)

Date

Stage II Restrictions Rescinded:

Date: July 22, 2026

Chairman, Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Date

7/29/26

PRISCILLA
BANCROFT

Digitally signed by PRISCILLA
BANCROFT
Date: 2026.07.22 12:16:02 -0600

Superintendent, Southern Ute Agency

Date

Criteria		Mesa Mountain		
1	1000 Hr fuels <12%	Current 1000 hrs=	Trigger	Criteria Met
		12	No	No
2	Criteria A - Mesa Mtn ERC Is > 80%	Mesa Mountain		
		Current	Trigger	Criteria Met
	W-Grass/Shrub=9	8	No	No
	X-Brush=78	79	Yes	
	Y-Timber=52	42	No	
	Z-Slash= 105	82	No	
	Criteria B - Sandoval ERC Is > 80%	Sandoval Mesa		
		Current	Trigger	
	W-Grass/Shrub=9	8	No	
	X-Brush=80	79	No	
	Y-Timber=48	34	No	
	Z-Slash= 95	75	No	
3	Criteria A - Mesa Mtn BI>80%	Mesa Mountain		
		Current	Trigger	Criteria Met
	W-Grass/Shrub=43	48	Yes	Yes
	X-Brush=186	222	Yes	
	Y-Timber=38	35	No	
	Z-Slash= 95	95	No	
	Criteria B - Sandoval BI>80%	Sandoval Mesa		
		Current	Trigger	
	W-Grass/Shrub=34	40	Yes	
	X-Brush=155	185	Yes	
	Y-Timber=31	27	No	
	Z-Slash= 90	75	No	

4	Durango Zone Fire Danger Operating Plan Calculator Indicates Fire Restrictions Warranted For Lower Zone Fire Danger Rating Area (FDRA) - Within 6 day forecast	Criteria Met Yes
5	Fire Danger adjective class is very high or extreme	Criteria Met No
6	Fire occurrence is impacting available resources	Criteria Met Yes
7	Local Preparedness level is 3 or above	Criteria Met No
8	Local area is relieving a high occurrence of fires and human caused risk is expected to increase	Criteria Met No
9	Adverse weather conditions and risks are predicted to continue	Criteria Met No
10	Implementation of existing fire restrictions are not adequately reducing human-caused fires	Criteria Met No
	Total	2 Criteria Met 8 Criteria NOT met

Justification/Summary

Recommend Stage II Fire Restrictions as drought conditions persist and potential for large fire is high. Restrictions will mitigate some man-caused ignition sources.

Prepared by

Richard Gustafson

RICHARD
GUSTAFSON

Digitally signed by RICHARD
GUSTAFSON
Date: 2026.07.20 08:26:50
-06'00'

Date

20-Jul-26



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UNITED STATE WILDLAND FIRE SERVICE
Southern Ute Agency
575 CR 517
Ignacio, Colorado 81137-0315

NEWS RELEASE

**SOUTHERN UTE RESERVATION RESCINDS STAGE II,
REMAINS IN STAGE I FIRE RESTRICTIONS**

Ignacio, CO,

Due to recent rains and higher humidities, Stage II fire restrictions have been rescinded for all trust lands throughout the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. Stage I fire restrictions remain in place due to the spotty nature of the recent rains and where some areas remain dry. The overall drought conditions still create the potential for large fire development, and any ignition could grow rapidly. Stage I fire restrictions for the General Public include:

**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.CAMPFIRES. Building, maintaining or using a warming fire or campfire outside of officially designated or developed camp sites is prohibited. 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 of fireworks is prohibited.

There are Fire Restrictions for Commercial and Industrial operations as well, please contact your Tribal representative for more details on Fire Restrictions.

For a copy of the fire restrictions or more information regarding fire restrictions, please visit Southern Ute Agency Fire Management at 575 County Road 517, Ignacio, CO 81137.

Stage II Restrictions will be rescinded at 06:00 AM, Wednesday, July 22, 2026.