

Arizona State Forester Expands Fire Restrictions on State-Owned Lands

(PHOENIX, AZ., May 16th, 2012 5:00P.M.)— Due to the high risk of wildfire across Arizona, State Forester Scott Hunt today announced that the Forestry Division will be expanding fire restrictions to include State lands in all 15 counties. Earlier this month, State lands in six southeastern counties were placed under restrictions.

Effective May 18, 2012, at 0800 hours, fire restrictions on State lands will prohibit campfires, charcoal-burning devices and use of acetylene or other torches. Smoking is also prohibited unless it is within an enclosed vehicle or building, developed campground or area that is cleared of all flammable materials. These restrictions include a prohibition on the use of any fireworks.

These restrictions apply statewide to all unincorporated State Trust Lands, Game & Fish Wildlife Areas and Arizona State Parks. State Park campgrounds will remain open; however parks will be under severe fire restrictions. Please call 602-542-4174 regarding fire restrictions in all 27 State Parks or go to AzStateParks.gov for more information.

The restrictions also apply statewide to all Arizona Department of Transportation right-of-way property in unincorporated areas which is not federally-owned. The state restrictions do not apply to private lands.

“Hot and dry weather conditions have rapidly dried our vegetation and we find it necessary to place additional State lands under restrictions to prevent human-caused wildfires,” said State Forester Scott Hunt. “It is essential that Arizonans heed

fire restrictions on all lands to prevent destructive fires this summer.”

Pursuant to A.R.S. 37-623, the State Forester is given authority to restrict the use of open flames

The State Forester’s Notice of Fire Restrictions prohibits the following activities:

- Building or maintaining a fire, campfire, or charcoal burning device. (Petroleum and propane fueled stoves, lanterns, heating and livestock branding devices are exempt)
- Smoking, unless it is done within an enclosed vehicle, building or developed campground, or within an area at least 10 feet in diameter and barren or cleared of all flammable materials.
- Welding or use of acetylene or other torch device with an open flame.
- The use of fireworks.

Note: If local authorities have imposed stronger restrictions than those listed above, than the local restrictions shall apply.

The restrictions are effective May 18, 2012 at 0800 and will continue until further notice.

The Arizona State Forester’s Office in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management is maintaining a new fire restriction website this season: <http://firerestrictions.us/az/>

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www.azsf.az.gov/ www.firerestrictions.us/