

HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST



FIRE RESTRICTION FAQS

Why do land management agencies go into fire restrictions?

Fire restrictions are put in place to reduce the risk of human-caused fires during times of high or extreme fire danger.

How do I know when fire restrictions are in place?

Refer to <https://www.nevadafireinfo.org/restrictions-and-closures> to view current restrictions. Also, keep updated and informed by following us on Facebook ([HumboldtToiyabeNE](#)) and Twitter ([HumboldtToiyabe](#)). You may see signs around the forest when fire restrictions are in place, and the public is always welcome to call the Ranger District they are located in to find out more. For a list district contact information, visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/htnf>.

What is the difference between Stage 1 and 2 fire restrictions?

Stage 1 restrictions have less prohibited activities. The main difference is that under Stage 1 fire restrictions campfires are still allowed, but only in FS designated areas. Under Stage 2 restrictions, campfires are not allowed anywhere on Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest land that is under those restrictions. A descriptive area and a map are provided when restrictions go into effect.

Stage 2 restrictions also prohibit operating or parking a vehicle or other motorized equipment over or on top of dried/cured vegetation. The exception to this is parking in an area devoid of vegetation within 10 feet of the roadway, overnight parking in Forest Service developed campgrounds and at trailheads.

Is there a Stage 3 fire restriction?

Yes, Stage 3 restrictions entail the full closure of National Forest System lands to prevent wildfire, but they are very rare and only occur in extreme circumstances.

**NO
CAMPFIRES?**

How are we supposed to cook our food while camping?



It is never our intention to stop anyone from recreating on our beautiful forest! We encourage you not to let fire restrictions change your plans to go camping, but use one of the many alternative options available. Portable stoves or fire pits that use gas, liquid fuel, jellied petroleum, etc., are allowed under fire restrictions.

Tip: Anything that can be reliably extinguished, whose flame cannot be spread by wind and does not leave behind anything that may start a fire is generally permissible. If it has an on/off switch, it is okay to use.

Are the fire restrictions different if I am on the California side of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest?

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is the biggest forest in the lower 48 states, spans across the state of Nevada and a portion of eastern California and is broken up into seven districts. Sometimes, fire restrictions are limited to a certain district, while other times they are forest-wide. It is important to know where you are going on the forest and which district you will be in so that you can check to see if there are fire restrictions or not. For a list of district contact information, visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/htnf>.

On the California portions of the forest located within the Carson and Bridgeport Ranger Districts, you must have a California Campfire Permit, even if you are simply using a propane portable stove. Permits are free. To obtain one, visit the local ranger station or <https://permit.preventwildfiresca.org/>.

Nevada has no campfire permit requirement.

I am a hiker and would like to use a twig stove while backpacking. Is this okay?

If no fire restrictions are in place, yes. If there are any level of restrictions in effect, then no. Twig stoves fall into the category that is prohibited under fire restrictions since their fuel source is not contained and there is no on/off switch. Consider other alternatives when fire restrictions are in place.

Stage 1 restrictions say it is okay to have a campfire in a developed recreation area, but not in a dispersed area. What is the difference, and how do I know?



DEVELOPED

Developed recreation sites have Forest Service signage that designates it as an agency-owned campground or day use area and is identified on a Forest Service map as a site developed for that purpose. These areas have approved fire pits and may have water and/or other facilities provided.

DISPERSED

Dispersed sites are simply any area outside of developed campgrounds that people choose to camp in. It is important to remember that just because you find a camp spot with a rock fire ring already built, it does not mean that it falls into the developed category. In fact, this would be a dispersed site, which means that under restrictions you cannot have a campfire there. Contact your local ranger district to learn about the options for developed recreation sites in your area.



[Click here](#) for more information on what wilderness areas are located on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Can I have campfires in the wilderness?

This depends on which of the 24 designated wilderness areas you are visiting. For most, the same rules apply as do the rest of the forest when under fire restrictions. However, there are some important exceptions:

La Madre Mountain, Mt Charleston and Rainbow Mountain Wildernesses: No ground campfires (including wood burning stoves, charcoal fires and stoves, packed in firewood, etc.) are allowed anytime of the year on the La Madre Mountain, Mt Charleston and Rainbow Mountain Wildernesses located on the SMNRA.

Mokelumne Wilderness: Campfires are prohibited above 8,000 feet in the Mokelumne Wilderness, as well as within the entire Carson Pass Restricted Area and Salt Springs Management Area.

Hoover Wilderness: Campfires are prohibited within the Sawtooth Ridge Area within the Hoover Wilderness.

Stage 2 restrictions list the prohibition of operating or parking a vehicle or other motorized equipment over or on top of dried/cured vegetation. What if I am going on a National Forest road for a drive in the woods?

You can drive on a designated road during Stage I or II restrictions. However, the undercarriage of your vehicle can get extremely hot and start a fire if driving over dry grass. Never park in tall, dry vegetation. If you see a fire, report it to the appropriate agency or call 911.

Call the local land management agency where you would like to go. They can advise you and furnish maps of trails and roads that are open for use. You can also visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/htnf/home/?cid=stelprdb5417362> for motor vehicle use maps.

Can I use an enclosed wood burning camp stove in my hard-sided tent, wall tent, or camper?

These are not allowed under either Stage I or Stage II restrictions. These are potential sources for sparks and/or persistent hot material that can ignite or smolder.

During Stage II restrictions, can I use an enclosed wood or shepherder stove with chimney screen?

Such use is considered the same as a campfire and is prohibited during Stage II except under a special-use permit.

Can I use BBQ briquettes to cook?

Briquettes are treated exactly like a campfire and fall under the same restrictions for campfires.

Tip: Briquettes burn hot and slow and take a very long time before losing heat. When no restrictions are in place and you are using briquettes, be sure to never dispose of briquettes in inappropriate areas, such as places with tall brush or vegetation.

During restrictions, can I barbeque in my elevated fire ring device I brought from home that has a screen? This falls under the same category as a campfire and wouldn't be permissible under Stage 1 restrictions.





Do fire restrictions prohibit target shooting?

Generally, no. However, land management agencies do have the authority to restrict target shooting due to high fire danger. Check the specific fire restriction orders at <https://www.nevadafireinfo.org/restrictions-and-closures> to make sure prior to going out.

State and Federal laws apply when recreational shooting on National Forest System land (or NFS lands). In addition, please check county ordinances for congested area shooting restrictions, which may apply to federal lands. Forest visitors also need to be in compliance with any general laws and regulations about weapons.

No recreational shooting is allowed in or within 150 yards from a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation area, administrative site, or occupied area. It is also prohibited across or on forest road or body of water. For more information on recreational shooting on Forest Service land and how to do it safely, please visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/htnf/alerts-notice/?cid=fseprd573395>.

Important tips:

- Don't shoot into rocks or metal objects and place targets in area free of vegetation.
- Exploding targets are always illegal on public lands.
- Choose the right ammo, as steel core and solid copper have the highest potential to start fires.
- Always have a shovel, water and fire extinguisher ready in case a fire starts. It is more common than you may think!

If it is a hot, dry and windy day, save your ammo! Choose to shoot another day!



When I am allowed to have a campfire, what are some tips to have one responsibly?

Before you have a campfire, choose a good spot that is protected from wind and at least 15 feet from your tent or anything flammable. If not already provided, dig a pit and build a ring around it with rocks to create a safe barrier. Keep your fire small, and never leave it unattended. Be sure to have water and a shovel nearby at all times. Afterward, allow your campfire to burn down completely. Drown with water, wetting all the ashes. Use a shovel to stir the ashes into a mud mixture. Drown the mixture with water again. Feel with the back of your hand all around to check that your campfire is totally and completely cold before you leave. Continue the process until you are 100 percent sure that it no longer holds any heat. Refer to <https://smokeybear.com/education/smokey-campfire-safety-checklist.pdf> for more information.

Will the restrictions lift before hunting season? If not, can I have a warming fire if it is early in the morning when the humidity is higher and there is dew on the grass? The restrictions can continue into the hunting season until the area receives enough moisture to ensure that wildfire starts will be at a minimum. Hunters need to check for restrictions in the area they plan to be in and adhere to those restrictions accordingly. If restrictions are still in place you are not allowed to have a warming fire.

What is the penalty if I have a campfire when I am not supposed to?

Failure to comply with fire restrictions may result in criminal and/or civil penalties, including up to \$5,000 in fines and/or six months in jail. Please help us prevent human-caused wildfires and obey all fire restrictions.

What should I do if I accidentally start a fire?

Accidents happen. If you start a wildfire, do the right thing by calling 911 and report as much information as possible including the location, your name, and how to get to where you are.

Can I be held liable if I start a wildfire?

Yes. You could be responsible for paying some or even all of the associated suppression costs.

If we don't know about the restrictions and/or they change can we be held responsible?

Yes. It is your responsibility to know this type of information when you plan your activities. Please do your research prior to recreating. Feel free to contact your local Ranger District with any further questions.

THANK YOU FOR DOING YOUR PART
IN PREVENTING WILDFIRES BY OBEYING
ALL FIRE RESTRICTIONS.



@HumboldtToiyabe



@HumboldtToiyabeNF