



For Immediate Release

Holbrook, AZ- On Monday, July 1, 2024, the White Mountain Fire Coordinating Group met to discuss the current fire restrictions. Upon review of current conditions, it was determined that the unincorporated areas of Apache and Navajo Counties, the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, State Trust lands and BLM, the cities/towns of Show Low and Pinetop-Lakeside will rescind all fire restrictions beginning Monday, July 1, 2024 at 5 p.m.

At this time the White Mountain Apache Reservation remains in Stage 2 Fire Restrictions until the White Mountain Tribal Government is able to meet and confirm the recommendation by the BIA-Ft. Apache Agency to return to Stage 1 Fire Restrictions.

The decision to rescind fire restrictions included the analysis of several key data points including the energy release components (ERC) of the fuels in the region. The ERC is valuable in determining fire danger because it acts as a fuel moisture index for all types of live and dead fuels. It tells fire managers how hot and fast the fuels will burn. The ERC's are now in approximately the 50th percentile or lower which is a good indicator of the fuel moisture content. Another key data set is the number of fires (human or natural caused) throughout the region, which have been minimal in previous weeks. In addition, the 6 to 10- day and monthly weather outlooks are also a deciding factor in restrictions and the projected weather forecast is for monsoon activity to continue across North Eastern Arizona. Finally, the group also assessed the availability of resources that would be called upon should a fire start.

All these pieces come together to form the deciding factors in entering or lifting fire restrictions and is a coordinated, regional effort. That being said, even with increased moisture across the region and more forecast in the future, it is imperative that our community members and visitors stay vigilant and follow good land stewardship practices that will ensure our forests, homes and businesses are protected year-round. Therefore, we ask that our residents and visitors continue to practice fire safety with campfires and debris burning. **Never** leave a fire of any kind unattended. When extinguishing any fire, be sure to drown it with water, stir the water in, and feel the area with the back of your hand for any heat, repeating as necessary to ensure the fire is completely out.

The White Mountain Fire Coordinating Group would like to thank all of our residents and visitors for their compliance to fire restrictions, together we are able to keep our communities safer.

To stay up to date on all fire restrictions, please visit 311info.net and click on the Fire Restrictions tab or contact your local fire department/district.