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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JOEL FERRY
Executive Director

Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands

JAMIE BARNES
State Forester/Director

ORDER # SWCLO2402

Fire Restriction Order (Stage 1)

Due to current and forecasted weather conditions coupled with the extremely dry vegetation conditions in southern Utah, the State Forester, in consultation with the county commission of the affected county, has determined that measures must be taken to prevent the ignition of forest and rangeland fires. Therefore, pursuant to Utah State Law, Section 65A-8-212, the following acts are prohibited in the areas described below until rescinded by the Utah State Forester:

1. No open fires of any kind except within established **public** facilities in improved campgrounds, picnic areas. -OR- In permanently constructed fire pits at **private** homes where running water is present.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, trailer or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area that is paved or free from dry vegetation.
3. Discharging or using any fireworks, tracer ammunition or other pyrotechnic devices including exploding targets.
4. Cutting, welding or grinding metal in areas of dry vegetation.
5. Operating a motorcycle, chainsaw, ATV, or other small internal combustion engine without an approved and working spark arrestor.

The following persons are exempted from the above prohibitions:

1. Persons with a permit or waiver issued by the Division, specifically authorizing a specified act at a specific location. A waiver does not relieve the permittee of liability if a fire does occur.
2. Any on-duty firefighter in the performance of an official duty.

Area Description: All **unincorporated private** and all **state lands** within the following area: All of **Beaver, Iron, Washington, Kane, Garfield Counties**. This order does not affect private lands within incorporated towns or city limits.

Any of the above acts is a violation of state law and is punishable by up to 6 months in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000. These restrictions will be enforced by county law enforcement.

Effective Date: **12:01 a.m., 21st day of June, 2024**

Brett Ostler

Brett Ostler (Jun 18, 2024 11:58 MDT)

Brett Ostler, State Fire Management Officer

Jamie Barnes

Jamie Barnes (Jun 18, 2024 12:52 MDT)

Jamie Barnes, State Forester



Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory

Utah

Valid July 10th – July 24th, 2024

Subject: Very Active to Extreme fire behavior has been observed on recent wildfires in southern Utah and should be expected on new and emerging fires across much of western Utah and the AZ Strip due to recent hot and dry weather and forecasted record heat. A wet winter across northwest Utah has produced above normal fuel loading which can contribute to advanced fire behavior and high rates of spread.

Discussion: The following conditions are being or will be experienced/observed:

- Anticipated record heat and exceptionally dry conditions following a dry June and early July continue to rapidly dry out live and dead fuels across southern and western Utah.
- Exceptionally hot and dry conditions with relative humidity in the single digits during the day and only recovering to 10-18% overnight, extending burn periods.
- Above normal fine fuel loading and continuity across northwest Utah.
- Live fuel moisture values have reached critical levels, and those fuels are available for ignition.
- For numerous areas across the southern and western Utah the ERCs are already above the 90th-95th percentile and will likely approaching record levels for this time of year in the next week.
- 100 and 1000-hr time lag fuels are at or rapidly approaching historical lows and seeing complete consumption.

Difference from normal conditions: Live and dead fuel moistures are at or below normal for the time of year and are expected to continue to dry rapidly under the upcoming hot and dry airmass. Fine fuel loading is above normal across northwest Utah, increasing the potential for rapidly moving fires and extreme fire behavior. **Current NFDRS indices are above normal for this time of year and are forecast to break records in some areas.** See ERC chart on pg. 2

Concerns to Firefighters and the Public:

- Anticipate flashy fine fuels and sagebrush, pinyon-juniper, gamble oak and mixed conifer to ignite easily and exhibit **advanced rates of spread, elongated flaming fronts and increasing fire brands; expect more long range spotting, even in absence of slope and wind. You can't out run it!**
- Anticipate dust devils and fire whirls to develop in hot, dry and unstable conditions, especially in fine flashy fuels, that may jeopardize control lines and contribute to erratic fire behavior.
- Expect longer burn periods at mid to higher elevations.
- Fine fuel loadings in some areas are dense and continuous and will support extreme rates of spread regardless of fuel heights.

Mitigation Measures:

- Modify tactics to account for potential high rapid rates of spread and high resistance to control.
- Communicate retardant drop effectiveness and modify as necessary; higher coverage levels or altered tactics may be required.
- Park all vehicles in clean, cold black; avoid driving or parking in unburned fuels.
- Ensure solid anchor points – keep one foot in the black.
- Constantly re-evaluate LCES – Lookouts – Communications – Escape Routes – Safety Zones.
- Consult the latest weather and fire danger information at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/>

Area of Concern: Much of Utah and the AZ Strip (see map on pg. 2)

Issued By: Great Basin Coordination Center Predictive Services.

UTAH INTERAGENCY FIRE

Color Country Interagency News Release



CONTACT: Kayli Guild

RELEASE DATE: June 20, 2024

385-377-0336, kayliguild@utah.gov

Additional agency contacts below

Southwest Utah and northern Arizona to implement fire restrictions

ST. GEORGE, Utah - Due to rapidly increasing fire danger, interagency fire managers are implementing Stage 1 Fire Restrictions beginning June 21 at 12:01 a.m. on all federal, unincorporated Private, and State lands in Washington, Iron, Beaver, Kane and Garfield counties (excluding lands in Beaver and Garfield managed by the Fishlake National Forest), all Arizona State Lands north of the Grand Canyon, NPS lands within Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, and all BLM-managed public lands within the Arizona Strip District in Arizona. Incorporated cities and towns are not included. Please contact your local fire department or county fire warden for specific private land fire restrictions.

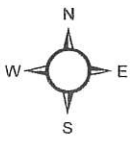
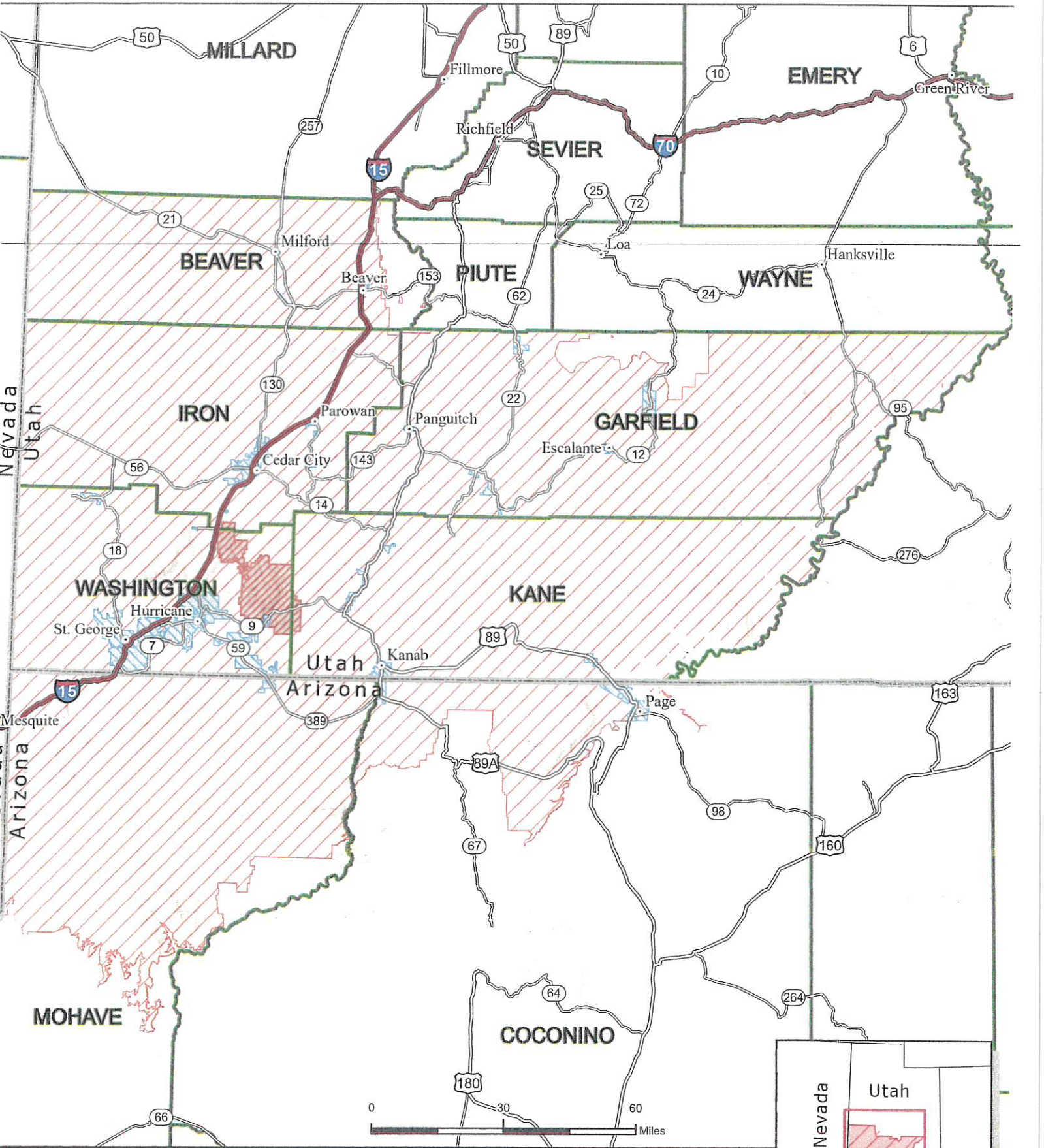
"Elevated fire danger conditions are present across much of southwest Utah. Hot and dry weather conditions are expected to continue into July," said **Southwest Utah Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands Fire Management Officer Dave Harmon**. "Because of the higher-than-average spring precipitation, there is more grass on Utah's landscapes. On windy days, wildfires have the potential to become larger because there's more available fuel and spread faster through dry grasses."

While Stage 1 Fire Restrictions are in effect, the following acts are prohibited:

- No campfires or open fires outside of agency improved and maintained campgrounds and homesites in southwest Utah. Running water is required on cabins or homesites on unincorporated private land. Devices fueled by liquid petroleum are allowed.
- No discharging of fireworks or other pyrotechnic devices outside of incorporated city limits or on public lands (city-specific restrictions may apply). Fireworks are always prohibited on all federal lands.
- No shooting of exploding targets or tracer ammunition.

Color Country Interagency Fire

Fire Restrictions June 21, 2024



- Legend**
- Stage 1 Fire Restriction
 - Stage 2 Fire Restriction
 - Incorporated City (Contact Local Jurisdiction)

