ANGELUS NATIONAL FOREST
Forest Order No. 05-01-18-05
Fire Restrictions

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to provide for public safety and protect natural resources, the following acts are prohibited within the Angeles National Forest and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. This Order is effective from November 15, 2018 through January 31, 2019.

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire. 36 CFR 261.52(a).

2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material. 36 CFR 261.52(d).

3. Welding, or operating an acetylene or other torch with open flame. 36 CFR 261.52(i).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Any Federal, State or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

2. Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the prohibited act or omission.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

A violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than $5000 for an individual or $10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months or both 16 USC 551, and 18 USC 3559, 3571, and 3581.

Executed in Arcadia, California, this 14th day of November, 2018.

Jerome E Perez
Forest Supervisor
Angeles National Forest
San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

This order supersedes Forest Order No. 05-01-18-02, signed on January 11, 2018.
Date: November 14, 2018

To: File

From: Jerome E. Perez, Forest Supervisor

Re: Forest Order No. 05-01-18-05

I have decided to implement temporary Fire Restrictions in the Angeles National Forest. To provide for public safety during hazardous fire conditions the use of fires, smoking, and welding, will be restricted until hazardous fire conditions reach the low fire danger level.

The Angeles National Forest has one of the most dramatic wildfire histories of any National Forest. Wildfires burn an average of 10,000 acres annually, with fires exceeding 300 acres resulting in the majority of the resource damage and loss of life and property. Historic patterns show the most severe wildfire losses occur during the months of October through December; however fire activity occurs throughout the year. Large, wind-driven wildfires have occurred in every month. The proximity of the Forest to large population centers and continuing development within the wildland-urban interface create situations where the potential for catastrophic property damage and loss of life is high.

The low and intermediate elevations of the Angeles National Forest, like most of Southern California, have a Mediterranean-type climate. The Forest experiences relatively mild winters with limited precipitation and long, hot, dry summers. Current and long range weather predictions indicate above-normal temperatures, below-average relative humidity, below-average precipitation during the next 30-120 days, and periods of strong, gusty "Santa Ana" winds.

Chaparral vegetation is the predominant fuel type, covering more than 75% of the Forest. Significant stands of large timber and even-aged communities occur throughout the Forest. Live fuel moistures are at or below record levels for both 100-hour and 1000-hour fuels. Energy Release Components at U.S. Forest Service severity stations in the Southern California Geographic Area are all at or above record high levels. Burning Indices for the Angeles National Forest are at the extreme levels. These conditions indicate that once fires become established, they will likely have a very high resistance to control, strong potential for extreme fire behavior, and rapid rates of spread even with minimal wind.

The following actions will be implemented to minimize the occurrence of wildfires:
1. Continue to monitor weather conditions on a daily basis.

2. Continue to monitor fuel conditions, Burning Indices and Energy Release Components on a daily basis.

3. Coordinate actions with representatives of neighboring Federal land management agencies, State resource and fire agencies, County fire departments and local co-operators.

4. Coordinate with the Forest Public Information Specialist in developing and disseminating information regarding conditions and restrictions to the media and the public.

5. Ensure appropriate posting of restrictions along access routes and at selected dispersed and developed recreation sites.

Scoping was conducted in conjunction with the following cooperators: Los Angeles City Fire Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department. No significant issues were raised during the scoping.

I have concluded that this decision may be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act. This action falls within the category identified in 36 CFR 220.6(d)(1) – prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety – and does not require documentation in a decision memo, decision notice, or record of decision. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances associated with this temporary fire prohibition order. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.