



# NEWS RELEASE

Department of the Interior – Bureau of Land Management  
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## **BLM-Las Cruces Issues Fire and Smoking Restrictions**

LAS CRUCES – The Bureau of Land Management today issued a Fire Restriction Order for public land in Hidalgo, Otero, Luna, Dona Ana, Sierra and Grant Counties, according to BLM-Las Cruces Field Office Manager Amy Lueders.

The restrictions, effective May 23 until further notice, prohibit:

- burning of solid fuels, except that which is inside established campfire rings and grills within the Aguirre Spring Campground and the La Cueva picnic area (petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns or heating devices that meet Fire Underwriters' Labs specifications also may be used);
- smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building;
- welding or using an acetylene torch with an open flame;
- operating a chainsaw without an approved spark arrester, a fire extinguisher of not-less-than 8-ounce capacity and a round-point shovel, and
- using explosives on all BLM-managed public land.

The order applies to about 5 million acres of BLM-managed public land in the six southwestern New Mexico counties.

“The restrictions are to help prevent wildfires during current high-fire danger conditions. They complement restrictions in place in the Gila and Lincoln National Forests and other local jurisdictions,” Lueders said.

Violators may be fined up to \$500 or imprisoned for not more than six months. The BLM-Las Cruces last issued such an order in April 2002.