

Fire restrictions lifted in Lake Tahoe Basin

The U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit lifted fire restrictions for Forest Service lands Tuesday.

Additionally, Forest Service Fire Chief Kit Bailey, in conjunction with local fire chiefs, opened residential burning the same day. Residential burning must be conducted between 8am and 6pm with a valid burn permit.

Although the Forest Service is lifting the additional fire restrictions imposed in the summer, the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit adopted a set of fire regulations in 2004 that restricts where campfires are allowed year-round. Most of the Lake Tahoe backcountry is essentially stove only and a valid campfire permit is required. This same regulation applies within the Desolation Wilderness, where a "stove only" regulation has been in place for more than 10 years. Developed campgrounds usually allow for campfires year-round in the facilities provided.

To obtain more information about backcountry fire regulations and how to obtain a campfire permit, call the Forest Supervisor's office in South Lake Tahoe at (530) 543.2694. To learn more about camping and fire regulations on-line, visit www.fs.fed.us/r5/ltbmu/regulations/rules.shtml. To learn more about residential burning, local restrictions and permits, contact your local fire department or fire protection district.

Even when fire restrictions end, the Forest Service asks residents and visitors to continue to use caution with campfires, camp stoves, barbecue grills and cigarette smoking.