



INTERAGENCY NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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FIRE DANGER - FIRE RESTRICTIONS GO INTO EFFECT

In response to the increasing fire danger, the Sequoia National Forest and Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bakersfield Field Office, announced today, an Interagency Declaration to impose fire restrictions for all federally protected lands within their jurisdiction on Friday, June 11, 2004.

On the Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument, this declaration will include all forestlands located in Tulare, Fresno and Kern counties. For Bakersfield BLM, this declaration includes all public land located in the counties of Kern, Tulare, Madera, Fresno, Kings, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura. These restrictions affect popular BLM recreational areas such as Carrizo Plain National Monument, San Joaquin River Gorge, Case Mountain, Three Rivers, Lake Isabella, and Chimney Peak/Kennedy Meadows.

With the extremely dry conditions, low humidities and increased fire potential, fire officials have decided to impose fire restrictions at least a month earlier this year. During the last month, the Fire Agencies have responded to numerous grass and brush fires. Last week, two homes were destroyed in the Tillie Fire in the Wofford Heights area.

During fire restrictions, visitors may only use lanterns and portable stoves using gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel outside of a developed recreation site or designated "fire exempt area". Campfires and barbecue charcoal fires are only allowed in developed recreation sites and designated fire exempt area. A "fire exempt" area is defined as a cleared, undeveloped, POSTED area where campfires and smoking are ONLY allowed during fire restrictions.

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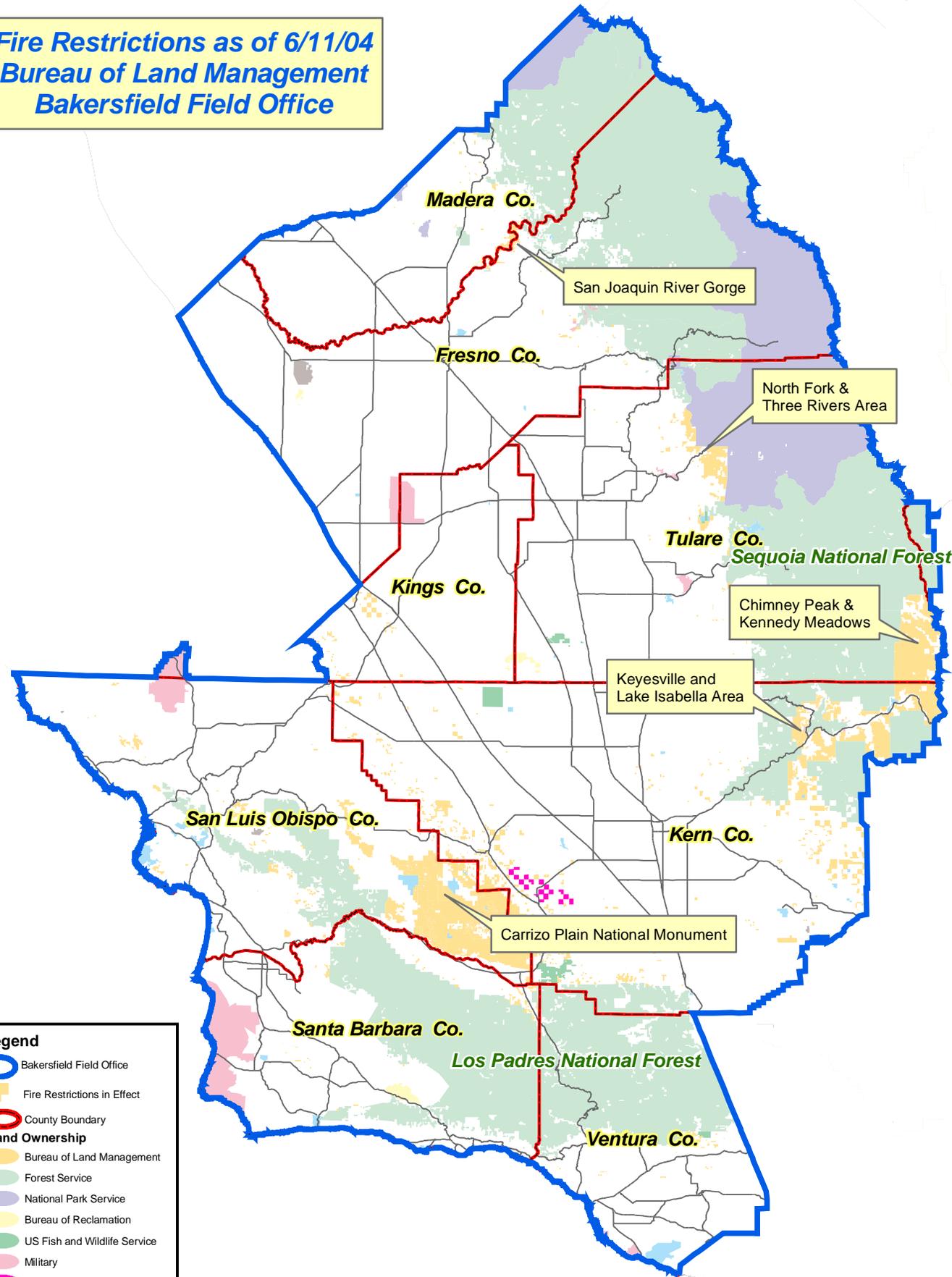
Visitors must have a valid California Campfire Permit in their possession for any type of fire use. Campers are being urged to be familiar with special limitations prior to visiting any National Forest or BLM public land. Campfire permits are available free of charge at any Forest Service or BLM office.

Smoking is not permitted, except within an enclosed vehicle, building, developed recreation site or designated fire exempt area.

Off-highway vehicles may only be operated on roads and designated trails on BLM lands and parts of the Sequoia National Forest. Within the Giant Sequoia National Monument and Carrizo Plain National Monument, motorized vehicles are only allowed on designated roads. Ensure engines, spark arresters, or any other types of mechanical equipment are tuned and working properly before using on Forest and BLM lands.

With a hot and dry summer ahead, fire officials urge the public to “Please Be Fire Safe,” when visiting our forests and public lands. Homeowners living in the wildland urban interface are reminded to complete their defensible space by clearing hazardous dry fuels away from their homes. Wildfires can be damaging. The personal liability can be enormous for the cost of suppression and damages caused by any wildfire that starts by negligence. It’s a clear choice ... Be Fire Wise!!!”

Fire Restrictions as of 6/11/04
Bureau of Land Management
Bakersfield Field Office



Legend

- Bakersfield Field Office
- Fire Restrictions in Effect
- County Boundary
- Land Ownership**
- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Military
- Dept. of Energy
- State Lands
- County / City / Regional

Fire Restrictions apply to all BLM lands within the Field Office Boundary. Campfire permits are required in all areas.

Fire Restrictions are also in effect on the Sequoia and Los Padres National Forests. Please contact the appropriate office for the most up to date information.