The Honorable Brian Vallo  
Governor, Pueblo of Acoma  
P.O. Box 309  
Acoma, NM 87034  

Dear Governor Vallo:  

In this time of uncertainty with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic and the protection of life for our fire fighters, warmer temperatures and drying of grasslands and timber fuels, the Southern Pueblos Agency (SPA), in consideration with New State Forestry, Santa Fe National Forest, Cibola National Forest and other Federal Agencies, is initiating Stage II Fire Restriction.  

Based on the above, we will initiate Stage II Fire restrictions beginning May 22, 2020. Stage II intensifies the restrictions from Stage I by focusing on activities that, although normally managed under permit or contract, have a relatively high risk of causing a fire start.  

In order to protect life from this Pandemic and natural resources of the Pueblo, and reduce the risk for a human caused fire, it may be necessary to close portions of the reservation if conditions do not improve. Closures may include the Mountain Ranges and the Bosque corridor. Access would be limited to permittees, federal and tribal employees on official business only.  

It is imperative that each Pueblo under the Agency’s jurisdiction, along with Law Enforcement, assist our Fire Management staff by enforcing these restrictions. Having these restrictions in place lessens some of the concerns for human-caused wildfires. It is important that we work together on this issue to avoid any damaging fires.  

As conditions persist, we can anticipate increasing to Stage III Restrictions – total closures. Thank you for your cooperation. If there are any questions, please contact Béla Harrington, Fire Management Officer 505-563-3658.  

Sincerely,  

JOHN ANTONIO  
Superintendent  

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Attachments:  
Stage I Restrictions outline  
Stage II Restrictions outline
STAGE I FIRE RESTRICTIONS

STAGE-I Fire Restrictions Include: The following acts are prohibited on tribal land, roads and camp grounds until further notice:

1. **Smoking is prohibited in the Bosque, Forest and Rangelands**, 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 materials.

2. **Campfires are prohibited in the Bosque, Forest, and Rangelands**, except in developed camp and picnic grounds where grills and fire rings are provided.

3. **Use of fire works is prohibited.**

4. **Agricultural Burns are Prohibited.** (See Exemptions)

EXEMPTIONS:

a. Pressurized liquid or gas stoves, lanterns and heaters meeting safety specifications are allowed.

b. Traditional fires such as; outdoor ovens and outdoor cooking fires are allowed.

c. Agricultural Burns may be allowed by the Southern Pueblos Agency. Approval to burn will be dependent on weather conditions.

d. All Federal, State, or local officers or members of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

e. Other exemptions unique to each pueblo.

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STAGE II FIRE RESTRICTIONS

STAGE-II Fire Restrictions Include: The following acts are prohibited on Tribal land, roads and camp grounds until further notice:

1. **Smoking is prohibited in the Bosque, Forest and Rangelands**, 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 materials;

2. **Campfires are prohibited in the Bosque, Forest, and Rangelands**, except in developed camp and picnic grounds where grills and fire rings are provided;

3. **Use of fireworks is prohibited throughout the reservation**;

4. Use of explosives is **prohibited in the Bosque, Forest and Rangelands**;

5. Operation of a chainsaw or other internal combustion engines during the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. is **prohibited in the Bosque, Forest and Rangelands**. Any use requires the use of approved spark arresters and a fire watch requiring personnel to stay in the project area and watch for fires for a minimum of one hour after the last piece of equipment is shut down.

6. Welding or operating acetylene or any other torch with open flame is **prohibited in the Bosque, Forest and Rangelands**: and

7. Operating a (OHV) Off Highway Vehicle on tribal land roads **in the Bosque, Forest and Rangelands**. OHVs are considered to be All-terrain vehicles (ATVs), Dirt bikes and Off-road vehicles (ORVs, UTVs or Mule type vehicles).

8. Agricultural Burns are expressly Prohibited.

EXEMPTIONS:

a. Pressurized liquid or gas stoves, lanterns/heaters meeting safety specifications are **allowed**; and

b. Traditional fires such as; outdoor ovens and outdoor cooking fires are **allowed** as long as extreme caution is exercised and best judgment followed.

c. All Federal, State, or local officers or members of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

An exemption does not absolve an individual or organization from liability or responsibility for any fire started by the exempted activity

JOHN

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ANTONIO
SUPERINTENDENT, BIA, Southern Pueblos Agency