

Fire as a Management Tool

During the fall and spring, the Plumas National Forest will be performing prescribed burn projects. Both under burning and hand pile burning are carefully planned. The District Fuels Officers, in cooperation with the Air Quality Management District, establish strict guidelines stipulating the conditions under which burning can be conducted. Dead fuel moisture is monitored, along with the current and future weather so that fire managers can predict the drift of the smoke and control the movement of the fire. From time to time, the smoke may settle in our communities in the evening, but it should clear by mid-morning. We will be taking steps to try and minimize this event and to minimize the smoke in our communities. Oftentimes, the burn "window" is very limited, so you will see the Forest Service burning when the public is not allowed to burn. Special requirements are in place to accomplish these goals of prescribed fire to enhance community fire protection and forest health.

We understand that our burning may be of concern to you and invite you to contact our office directly with your questions and concerns. We will also attempt to keep you updated with when and where we are burning. We look forward to working with you to protect our communities and improve the health of our forests.



Under burning on the Plumas National Forest

What can individuals do instead of burning household and yard waste?

Composting

- ✓ Reduces smoke pollution
- ✓ Creates rich, fertile soils
- ✓ Reduces landfill waste
- ✓ Easy and effective way to dispose of leaves and pine needles

Contact your local cooperative extension for more information.



Caution:

Be sure your compost pile is in a safe cleared area and monitored for heat especially during hot dry conditions. Wildfires have occurred from these piles under these conditions.

Chipping and Shredding

- ✓ An effective treatment to dispose of limbs, branches, leaves, pine needles and vegetation.
- ✓ Creates valuable landscaping material used for mulch and weed abatement.

Chipping and shredding service may be free in some areas. Contact your local fire safe council for more information at www.firesafecouncil.org.

Green waste Pickup:

Contact your local disposal company or lumber mill for opportunities for green waste disposal.

For more information on Debris Burn permits:

Plumas National Forest Supervisor's Office
159 Lawrence Street
PO Box 11500
Quincy, CA 95971-6025
Tel: 530/283-2050

Mt. Hough Ranger District
39696 State Highway 70
Quincy, CA 95971
Tel: 530/283-0555

Beckwourth Ranger District
23 Mohawk Road
PO Box 7
Blairsdan, CA 96103
Tel: 530/836-2575

Greenville Work Center
122 Hot Springs Rd.
Greenville, CA
Tel: 530/284-7126

Feather River Ranger District
875 Mitchell Avenue
Oroville, CA 95965-4699
Tel: 530/534-6500

Contact your closest community for burn day status as designated by the Air Resources Board

Quincy: 530/283-3602
Greenville: 530/284-6520
Portola: 530/832-4528
Doyle/Milford: 530/251-8110
Butte County residents: 530/896-2537
Yuba county residents: 530/741-6299
Vinton / Chilcoot: 530/994-3561

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United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
Plumas National Forest

Learn Before You Burn

Debris Burning Rules and Regulations



"Debris burning is the number one cause of person caused fires within the Plumas National Forest"

Burning Regulations and Permits

Burning permits are required beginning May 1st though the end of fire season. A burn ban is in effect from July 1st through October 31st yearly.

Burn permits are required by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) for all private and federal lands.

Where to get burn permits:

The Plumas National Forest issues burn permits under an agreement with CDF.

✓ Permits are available at Forest Service Ranger Stations.

✓ City of Portola residents must obtain their permits at Portola City Hall.

✓ Residents in Butte and Yuba county should contact your local CDF station for permits.

Burn Hours:

✓ November-April open hours

✓ May open hours with burn permit.

✓ June 5:00 am to 11:00 am with burn permit (no night time burning allowed)

✓ American Valley Residents in Quincy are under different restricted burning regulations. Contact the Mt. Hough Ranger Station for specific information.

“Burn permits are free!”

Pile burn permit terms

With proper permits, dry vegetation grown on the property can be burned. Green vegetation should be dried **3-6 weeks** before burning.

1. Maximum pile size **4 foot** diameter.

2. Area within **10 feet** of outer edge of pile shall be maintained free and clear of material and vegetation.



3. Adult must be in attendance with a shovel until the fire is dead out.

4. Water supply is required at burning site.

5. No burning shall be undertaken unless weather conditions (particularly wind) are such that burning can be considered safe.



Debris burning is encouraged during the winter and spring while conditions are wet and fire danger is very low. Cover your pile with plastic to keep it dry. Then uncover it and burn when the surrounding ground is wet.

Forest Fire Regulations and Restrictions

The following activities are *prohibited*:

1. Burning without a permit.

A pile burning permit is required each season by May 1. You must have one on site while burning and follow permit terms.

2. Violation of permit requirements.

Burning out of hours in the month of June will result in an emergency fire dispatch to your home as reported by our fire lookouts. You may be cited, and charged for the personnel and equipment time. Remember, in the month of June, only add as much debris to your pile to ensure it is out by 11:00 A.M.. Piles are not allowed to smolder beyond this time, and must be dead out.

3. Failure to attend or extinguish your fire.

You must be in attendance of your pile burning at all times or have it fully extinguished prior to leaving it. Most escape burn piles are from not being carefully watched until extinguished. Do not assume your pile will just die out. Extinguish it with water and stir until you can run the back of your hand through the ashes.

4. Burning on a “no burn day”

Your permit is only valid on days in which it has been determined by the Air Pollution Control District, to be a permissive burn day. Please call prior to igniting your burn pile.

5. Use of a burn barrel.

Burn barrels have been banned in the State of California for health reasons.

You can be held liable for Wildfires! Suppression Costs

Any person who sets fire(s) on any land, or allows fire(s) to be set to property owned or otherwise, and allows it to become a wildfire or escape the burn pile, shall be liable for all expenses incurred in the suppression of the fire by any county, state, or federal agency having jurisdiction in which the fire occurred.

Civil Liability for Damages

Any person, whose property is damaged or destroyed by fires, may recover, in a civil action, the value of timber, natural or man-made resources which suffered, from persons causing such fires.

Campfires on your land

Campfires do not require a burn permit and are allowed anytime on private land. However, we recommend not using campfires during high fire danger periods.

Check for campfire permit requirements before camping on public lands.

A campfire is defined as a fire which is used for cooking, personal warmth, lighting, ceremonial or esthetic purposes that is not within a building, mobile home or living accommodation mounted on a motor vehicle. Campfires include wood fires, charcoal fires, and portable gas stoves using gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel.

Remember bonfires and debris burn piles are not campfires!

Safe campfire with 5 feet clearance in all directions to mineral soil



California law prohibits burning the following materials:

- ⊗ Plywood
- ⊗ Furniture
- ⊗ Plastics
- ⊗ Rubber tires
- ⊗ Construction Debris
- ⊗ Styrofoam
- ⊗ Asphalt shingles
- ⊗ Treated lumber
- ⊗ Insulation
- ⊗ Paints
- ⊗ Metal
- ⊗ Motor Oil
- ⊗ Tar paper