

# NEWS RELEASE

*United States  
Department of  
Agriculture  
Southwest Region*

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[www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto/)

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## **Tonto National Forest lifts fire restrictions**

**PHOENIX** (June 29, 2009) – All campfire and smoking restrictions affecting the Tonto National Forest will be lifted, effective Wednesday, July 1, 8 a.m.

The fire restrictions, which covered the entire forest, are no longer needed because fire danger has been reduced by increased moisture and humidity from the annual monsoon season. These wetter conditions prompted officials to lift forest fire restrictions.

“Although campfires and smoking will now be allowed throughout the forest, visitors should properly extinguish cigarettes in ashtrays, and ashes in a campfire ring should be cold enough to touch before they are left,” said Tonto NF Fire Staff Officer Clay Templin. “Campfires should be put out by drowning with water and stirring with a shovel to ensure the fire is cold.”

Forest Supervisor Gene Blankenbaker extended special thanks to the visiting public during the fire restrictions which began May 14. “We want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding while we had to restrict access and activities on the Tonto during this fire season. We appreciate our visitors’ support of the restrictions.”

For more information, visit the Tonto website at [www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto/) or call 602.225.5200.