
P.O. Box 1270
Hot Springs, AR 71902
(501) 321-5202



605 W. Main
Russellville, AR 72801
(479) 968-2354

For Immediate Release
October 4, 2004

Contact: Tamara Schmidt
Phone: 501-321-5202

National Forests Closed to Campfires

HOT SPRINGS, AR – Open fires, including campfires, are currently banned on the Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests. Gas lanterns, grills and stoves may continue to be used.

The special closure is a result of increasing fire danger with continuing dry weather conditions. Ouachita National Forest Supervisor Alan Newman and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests Supervisor Charles Richmond signed the closures today.

Violation of the burn ban on the forests could result in a fine up to \$5,000 for individuals, up to \$10,000 for organizations, and up to six months imprisonment. Forest Service law enforcement officers will be patrolling the areas.

“The public’s cooperation in being aware of the wildfire risk during this dry spell is greatly appreciated,” Richmond said.

“Following the burning restrictions and exercising caution while enjoying the forests will help to protect the state’s natural resources from devastating wildfires,” Newman said.

Various burn bans were already in effect in most of the counties containing national forest land in Arkansas and Oklahoma. The ban on the forests will remain until the fire danger is reduced and the county burn bans are lifted.

For more information, please contact the Ouachita National Forest at 501-321-5202, or the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests at 479-968-2354.

###