

**MRGCD FIRE POLICY
RULE NO. 31**

1.0 Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) Fire Policy is to establish rules for the appropriate use of fire and fireworks on MRGCD-owned and controlled property, including the bosque. These rules are in effect until further notice, and may be strengthened or relaxed at the discretion of the MRGCD in consultation with other agencies.

2.0 Background

The incidence of catastrophic fires is increasing on MRGCD property, including the bosque. In the year 2000, fire destroyed more than 2000 acres of bosque in the Middle Rio Grande. Almost all of these fires are human-caused. Current fuel conditions in the bosque and frequent dry periods make the use of fireworks, uncontrolled campfires and smoking serious public safety hazards. Bosque fires destroy private property, valuable wildlife habitat and recreation resources.

3.0 Rules:

- 3.1 Fires are allowed only in grills that are provided in developed recreation sites; Users must have with them enough water to completely douse any fire;
- 3.2 Smoking is allowed only in enclosed vehicles or buildings;
- 3.3 Use of fireworks or explosive devices of any kind is prohibited;
- 3.4 Recreational activities are limited to established trails;
- 3.5 These rules do not apply to authorized maintenance and management activities;
- 3.6 Violators are subject to applicable fines and/or prosecution.