Written by Betsy Blevins Thursday, 21 April 2011 14:21 -

April 14, 2011 - Forest Supervisor Linda Brett has announced an immediate ban on fires in the Caddo National Grasslands except those in appropriate receptacles in general grassland areas.

"Considering the extreme fire hazard due to dry conditions, we're asking everyone to use the highest level of caution when visiting the Caddo National Grasslands," Brett said.

Visitors may use only gas and propane grills, lanterns and stoves only in the general grasslands areas. Smoking is allowed only in an enclosed vehicle, building or in a three-foot circular area cleared of all flammable material.

"This is a critical time for the grasslands, and it's important that people be watchful for wildfires and call local fire authorities as soon as a fire is spotted," Brett said. "We need help from our visitors and neighbors in the surrounding communities during this dry season to ensure that the beautiful grasslands and those on adjacent lands are safe from careless wildfires."