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For Immediate Release  
June 30, 2011

## **President Ben Shelly Calls Attention to Navajo Nation Fire Restrictions**

*Sale or use of fireworks or open wood fires are unlawful*

Window Rock, AZ—Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly today once again, called on Nation residents to follow the Navajo Forestry Department’s fire restriction guidelines, to protect tribal forests and woodlands from fire danger during the Fourth of July weekend. The Navajo Forestry Department and the BIA Branch of Forestry and Fire Management will be on high alert to enforce fire restrictions that prohibit the sale, use or possession of fireworks, open wood fires and smoking cigarettes in wooded areas.

“Due to extreme wildfires burning in New Mexico and Arizona, we want to remind everyone and visitors to help us prevent any wildland fires by following our fire restrictions and to be safe this holiday weekend,” said President Shelly. “We are asking everyone to please consider the extreme dry conditions, all it takes is one spark from fireworks or an open fire to start a fire. To enjoy the patriotic spirit of the Fourth of July, we invite everyone to attend any public fireworks display that are scheduled throughout the Nation.”

The Order of Fire Restrictions includes the following:

1. Building, maintaining and attending to all open fires, including personal use fires such as family reunions, trash burning, and
2. Recreational propane and/or petroleum fueled stoves will be the only fires allowed in developed recreational areas; and
3. Open burning of cropland, fields, rangeland, debris, weeds; and
4. Operating, using internal or external combustion engines (i.e. chainsaws) without a spark arrestor; and
5. Smoking of cigarettes, pipes and any other material; and
6. Possessing, discharging, manufacturing, sale or use of fireworks or other pyrotechnic device is unlawful on the Navajo Nation (17 N.N.C. § 2733); and
7. BIA burn permits will be required for all traditional ceremonies requiring the use of fire and will only be issued for these ceremonies.

Any person or parties found guilty of violating the fire restrictions will be fined and may be required to pay restitution to the Navajo Nation the full cost of fire suppression and/or fair market value of the timber/woodlands and improvements destroyed or damaged by a fire.

Report any wildland fires to the B.I.A. Fire Dispatch at (928) 729-2307, or contact the Navajo Forestry Department at (928) 729-4007.

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