

Wayne Allard

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Contact: Dick Wadhams
(202) 224-6207
John Wood
(202) 224-5946

ALLARD INTRODUCES WILDFIRE LEGISLATION MEASURE SHARPLY INCREASES PENALTY FOR CAMP FIRE BAN VIOLATIONS

Washington, D.C. --U.S. Sen. Wayne Allard (R-CO) today introduced legislation in the Senate that would increase the criminal penalty for those who violate bans on campfires when there is a high risk of fire danger on public lands.

“This bill is in direct response to the wildfires Colorado experienced last year during the “Summer of Fire,”” said Allard. “I hope to prevent another season of loss by increasing the consequences for those who violate the law, jeopardizing both people and property by their reckless behavior,” added Allard.

The bill, originally introduced in the House by Congressman Tom Tancredo (R-CO) would establish a minimum fine of \$1000 and a maximum jail sentence of one year if the violation results in damage to public or private property. Current penalties set a ceiling on fines at \$500 with a maximum jail term of six months.

“The Hayman and Missionary Ridge fires were caused by the negligent actions of careless individuals. This bill provides a strong deterrent to those who endanger our public lands,” said Allard.

Fines collected under the terms of the bill by the Forest Service, BLM, and Parks Service would be used to cover the costs of rehabilitation work rendered necessary by violations, and to increase public awareness of fire dangers and restrictions on public lands.

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