

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Prohibition of Fire on LDWF Owned or Managed Lands

In accordance with R.S. 49:962 of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under authority of R.S. 56:6, R.S. 56:32, R.S. 56:115 and R.S. 56:702, and LAC 76:XIX.111.A.1 and LAC 76:XIX.111.G.1.c, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) adopts the following Emergency Rule:

Louisiana is experiencing a period of severe drought and extreme heat, resulting in more than 440 wildfires since August 1, 2023, which continue to burn thousands of acres across the state. As a result, on August 11, 2023, Governor John Bel Edwards issued Proclamation 141 JBE 2023, declaring a statewide emergency, while authorizing and ordering all departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the state to cooperate in actions the State may take in this event. Conditions conducive for wildfires are expected to continue through the Labor Day weekend and beyond, putting at risk the life, safety and welfare of the citizens of Louisiana as well as fish and wildlife resources. Consequently, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declare a statewide emergency regarding all LDWF Wildlife Management Areas, refuges, and conservation areas ("LDWF owned or managed lands"). As a matter of public safety and protection, and in order to protect the fish and wildlife resources of the State of Louisiana, igniting fires of any kind, including, but not limited to, campfires, barbecue grills, or using matches, lighters, or any other device or instrument which is intended to ignite flames, is strictly prohibited upon LDWF owned or managed lands. Failure to abide by this Declaration of Emergency shall constitute a Class 2 violation. This Declaration of Emergency is effective from Friday, September 1, 2023, through Thursday, October 5, 2023, unless otherwise rescinded or amended by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries or the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Robert E. Shadoin
Secretary

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