

# News Release



**For Immediate Release**  
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**Contact:**  
District Superintendent  
Dan Falat  
760-767-4037  
[dan.falat@parks.ca.gov](mailto:dan.falat@parks.ca.gov)

## **Fire Closes Picacho State Recreation Area Until Further Notice**

Picacho State Recreation Area will be closed for the Memorial Day weekend and until further notice due to a wildfire and its aftermath. For public safety reasons, all shoreline, side channels, backwaters, and lakes on the Colorado River between Island Lake and Catfish Cove have been closed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service due to the Island Lake Fire. The main river channel remains open.

Approximately 3,200 acres of vegetation in the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge and Picacho State Recreation Area along the Colorado River was burned during the Island Lake Fire. Even though the fire is close to containment, there continues to be vegetation pockets within the perimeter of the fire that could ignite over the next several days. Additionally, campgrounds at Picacho SRA are being used as a staging area for fire crews.

After a wildfire, the ground and burned vegetation remain hot and smoldering stump holes could be present. Because of the soil types in the area, fire could smolder underground for several weeks unseen. Stepping into a hidden stump hole could cause severe burns.

These closures are in effect until further notice. For information regarding Imperial National Wildlife Refuge, please call 928-783-3371. For information about Picacho State Recreation Area, please call 760-996-2963.

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**For energy efficient recreation –**

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