

# Official News Release



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## Very dry conditions in North Central Montana

Several North Central Montana counties are not issuing burn permits until further notice. These counties include: Blaine, Chouteau, Daniels, Fergus, Golden Valley, Petroleum, Phillips, Valley, and Wheatland.

Weather conditions for the next week are expected to worsen, with higher temperatures, low relative humidity, and wind gusts between 30 and 50mph. Fire weather watches and red flag warnings are expected to continue through the weekend.

The smallest spark has the potential to cause significant damage to property and natural resources, so please take the necessary precautions when working and recreating outdoors to prevent wildland fire starts. **Anyone who causes a wildland fire intentionally or through negligence will be held accountable for damage and suppression costs.**

Always crush smokes dead out; never leave a campfire unattended; ensure that your vehicle has a properly installed spark arrester that is operational; stop and park only in areas clear of vegetation; and observe all fire restrictions. Take precautions, but always be prepared: carry a shovel, bucket and fire extinguisher. Also remember that cross country travel is not allowed on most federal and state lands.

The Lewistown Area Restrictions Group coordinates fire restrictions on federal, state and private land in the Lewistown Restrictions Area, covering north-central and extreme northeastern Montana. The group includes representatives from the Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management; Bureau of Indian Affairs; U.S Fish and Wildlife Service; Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; and Liberty, Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, Roosevelt, Chouteau, Judith Basin, Fergus, Petroleum, Wheatland and Golden Valley Counties.

For more information, please contact the Bureau of Land Management at 406-538-1900; C.M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge at 538-8706; Lewis and Clark National Forest at 406-791-7700; Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation at 406-538-7789; your local office of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks or your local fire department or sheriff's office.

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