

WYOMING INTERAGENCY FIRE RESTRICTION PLAN

*Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Forest Service
Wyoming Counties
and
Wyoming State Forestry Division*

WYOMING INTERAGENCY FIRE RESTRICTION PLAN

This plan is written within the direction and guidelines provided by the ROCKY MOUNTAIN INTERAGENCY WILDLAND FIRE PREVENTION and CLOSURE GUIDELINES that were adopted by the Rocky Mountain Coordination Group in May 1996. This plan will apply to all wildland administrative agencies within the state of Wyoming. The guiding documents that provide direction for fire restriction orders and closures are 36 CFR Part 261 and Wyoming Rules and Regulations - Board of Land Commissioners, Chapter 9, Fire Danger Closures. This plan does not change, replace, or modify agency rules and regulations.

(WYOMING INTERAGENCY COOPERATIVE FIRE management AGREEMENT dated February 15, 2002. BLM KAA02002, FS 02-CA-11020000-010 and Bureau of Indian Affairs)

OBJECTIVES:

1. Develop a plan that standardizes and simplifies the process for initiating and rescinding fire restrictions for all agencies in Wyoming which have jurisdiction for public, state, and/or private lands.
2. Establish fire restriction geographic areas which have easily identifiable and describable boundaries, and which may enter the upper levels of fire danger periods at approximately the same time.
3. Develop a communication process that reduces confusion, provides a coordinated interagency approach, and better informs the public of restriction status.
4. Develop standard definitions for Partial and Restrictions that are interagency acceptable, understandable by the public, and legally enforceable.
5. Develop standard, measurable, and predictive fire danger criteria that provide managers direction concerning when and where to initiate or remove restrictions.
6. Establish responsibility and time frames for dealing with the different phases of this plan.

GUIDELINES APPLICABLE TO ALL FIRE RESTRICTION AREAS:

Restrictions should be implemented only after reasonable prevention measures have been taken. These measures may include increased signing, public contacts, media campaigns, etc. Fire restrictions should be considered only when very high or extreme fire danger is predicted to persist. Other considerations are the level of human-caused fire occurrences being experienced, potential high-risk occasions (4th of July, hunting season etc.), and large fire activity occurring on your unit. Emergency closures have an extreme impact on the public and fire agencies and are discouraged except under the most severe conditions. They cannot be justified by fire danger alone and should be driven by high potential for human-caused fires, severe shortages of resources, numerous large fires, etc.

Wyoming Interagency Fire Restriction Plan should be reviewed annually during the county operating plan meetings or prior to May 1st

PROCEDURES FOR INITIATING OR RESCINDING FIRE RESTRICTIONS

INITIATION:

1. When the factors identified in the FIRE RESTRICTION EVALUATION GUIDELINES (page 4) approach critical levels for an area, begin considering the initiation of a fire restriction. Agency line officer/agency administrator and fire management personnel will be responsible for monitoring these conditions.
2. When conditions are identified as critical, fire management personnel within the proposed fire restriction area will confer, review conditions, recommend that a fire restriction is necessary for their area of responsibility, and include a start date.
3. Before the respective agency(s) applies a restriction, they will coordinate with the other agencies and public information officer responsible for the media notification in that fire restriction area in developing a schedule and plan for public notification.
4. The respective Dispatch Center will be notified of restrictions. Media process will disseminate current information as appropriate.
5. Each respective agency will be responsible for assuring their appropriate Orders and Restrictions, that authorize the special fire restrictions, are properly completed and signed by the Officer with authority.
6. Law enforcement personnel for each agency should have an opportunity to review the Orders to assure they are correctly completed within their guidelines and enforceable prior to public release. Law enforcement and fire personnel should jointly develop a plan to enforce the restrictions.
7. The Information Officer with responsibility for that fire restriction area will organize and initiate the media notification process.
8. Each agency will disseminate restriction notification through web pages, signage, and media outreach according to agency guidelines. Additional patrols may be initiated in high risk-high value areas.
9. Each agency will inform agency personnel of the restrictions being enacted and discuss changes in their daily routines to compensate for the increased fire danger. Those responsible for public contact will be provided with a copy of the restrictions and appropriate map. Each agency will also ensure, through briefings, that all employees understand what each restriction means.
10. Information Officers for each agency will be responsible for notifying the public, through media in their area, that they can now find the status of fire restrictions for any area in Wyoming by contacting their local, state, or federal office. The intent is to better inform the public of fire restrictions throughout Wyoming when they may be planning activities at areas away from their homes.

RESCINDING A RESTRICTION:

Removal of the restrictions will follow the same procedures outlined above.

FIRE RESTRICTION EVALUATION GUIDELINES:

When weather factors or fire suppression impacts become a concern, the following criteria will be used to determine if a Fire Restriction should be considered by area. Use weather data from weather stations in each Fire Restriction Area to make determination.

- * 1,000 HOUR FUEL MOISTURE CONTENT IS 90th PERCENTILE OR ABOVE
- * THREE-DAY MEAN ENERGY RELEASE COMPONENT (ERC) IS AT 90th PERCENTILE OR ABOVE, IN THE UNITS REP FUEL MODEL

- * LIVE FUEL MOISTURE CONTENT IS 75% OR LESS
- * WILDLAND FIRES ARE IMPACTING AVAILABLE SUPPRESSION RESOURCES
- * AREA IS RECEIVING A HIGH OCCURRENCE OF WILDLAND FIRE
- * ADVERSE FIRE WEATHER IS PREDICTED TO CONTINUE

PARTIAL RESTRICTIONS:

IF AT LEAST THREE OF THE CONDITIONS ABOVE ARE MET, CONSIDER INITIATING A PARTIAL RESTRICTION.

FULL RESTRICTIONS:

CONSIDER INITIATING A FULL RESTRICTION AFTER A PARTIAL RESTRICTION HAS BEEN IN EFFECT AND FOUR OR MORE OF THE CONDITIONS ABOVE ARE IMPACTED.

PARTIAL AND FULL RESTRICTIONS:

By Rocky Mountain Coordination Group direction, there will be only two fire restriction Stages: Partial and Full. Each Agency in the Fire Restriction Area must write their own Special Orders, which authorizes the restrictions within their jurisdictions. Each is responsible for using their agencies' format and having their Law Enforcement personnel review the Order to assure it is legally correct and enforceable. The intent of this plan is to foster interagency cooperation and standardization where practical. The following criteria will be used in fire restriction orders with respect to agency rules and regulations.

PARTIAL RESTRICTIONS:

Non-federal lands:

All outdoor fires are prohibited in unimproved areas, except as provide below:

1. Trash or refuse fires between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., inside containers provided with spark arresters and located within a cleared area ten feet in radius are permitted
2. Campfires contained within an established fire ring at established campgrounds
3. Use of acetylene cutting torches or electric arc welders in cleared areas 10 feet in radius are permitted
4. Charcoal fires within enclose grills are permitted
5. Propane or open fire branding activities in cleared areas 10 feet in radius are permitted

Federal lands:

The following acts are prohibited on federal lands unless otherwise noted.

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, charcoal barbecue, or grills except in designated recreation sites on federal lands. The use of portable stoves, lanterns using gas, jellied petroleum, pressurized liquid fuel or fully enclosed (shepherd type) wood burning stoves (piped) with a ¼' spark arrester type screen are permitted.
2. Welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame or arc except in cleared areas of at least 10 feet in radius with a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of at least 2A.

3. Smoking, except in an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation area site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.
4. Using an explosive requiring fuse type blasting caps.
5. Operating a chainsaw without a USDA or SAE approved spark arrester properly installed and in effective working order, a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of 2A, and one round pointed shovel with an overall length of a least 36 inches.
6. Discharge of fireworks.

Exemptions:

- a. Persons with a written permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act.
- b. Any federal, state, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

FULL RESTRICTIONS:

Non-federal lands:

The following activities are restricted or prohibited:

Access to the area shall be by permit only.

1. All outdoor fires, including, but not limited to, trash fires, charcoal fires, acetylene torches, electric arc welders, grills fueled by any pressurized liquid, and propane burners, are prohibited.
2. Smoking shall be restricted to inside vehicles or buildings.
3. All motorized travel shall be restricted to developed roads.
4. Use of motorized equipment or tools shall be restricted to cleared areas 10 feet in radius.
5. Discharge of fireworks is prohibited.

Federal lands:

The following acts are prohibited on federal lands unless otherwise noted.

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, charcoal barbecue, or grills are prohibited on federal lands. The use of portable stoves, lanterns using gas, jellied petroleum, pressurized liquid fuel or fully enclosed (shepherd type) wood burning stoves (piped) with a ¼' spark arrester type screen are permitted.
2. Smoking, except in an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation area site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.
3. Discharge of fireworks and use of explosives.

Exemptions:

- a. Persons with a written permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act.
- b. Persons using a fire fueled solely by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels.
- c. Any federal, state, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions should be used as part of, or referenced to, in the Special Orders or Laws that initiate and authorize a Partial or Full Restriction:

CAMPFIRE: A fire, not within any building, mobile home, or living accommodation mounted on a vehicle, which is used for cooking, branding, personal warmth, lighting, ceremonial, or aesthetic purposes.

WOOD STOVE FIRE: A fire built inside an enclosed stove, a portable brazier, or grill.

NON-WOOD STOVE: A pressurized liquid or gas stove, including a space-heating device.

RESTRICTION: A limitation on an activity or use.

CLOSURE: The closing of an area to entry or use due to high fire danger or fire activity.

DEVELOPED RECREATION SITE: An area, which has been improved or developed for recreation. A developed recreation site is signed as an agency-owned campground or picnic area and identified on a map as a site developed for that purpose.

DESIGNATED AREA: A location indicated by a sign, marker, or written notice showing approved fire use.

PERMIT: A written document issued by an authorized agency representative to specifically authorize an otherwise prohibited act.

CHAINSAW: A saw powered by an internal combustion engine, with cutting teeth linked in an endless chain.

MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT: any equipment or vehicle propelled by an internal combustion engine.

FOREST DEVELOPMENT ROAD OR TRAIL: A road or trail wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving a part of the National Forest System, and which has been included in the Forest Development Trail System Plan.

UNIMPROVED AREA DEFINITION: cropland, agricultural land, and undeveloped land which predominately remains in its natural forested or range condition.

Example of order on federal lands:

Closure Due to Hazardous Conditions / Fire Operations)

ORDER NO. _____

HAZARDOUS FIRE AREA CLOSURE

Agency Name

Pursuant to **36 CFR 261.50 (a) and (b)**, and because of fire operations and hazardous conditions, the following acts are prohibited on any area, forest development road or trail within/or adjacent to the (name of fire) Fire area of the Unit Name, as shown on the attached map (Exhibit A).

1. Going into or being upon the _____ Fire area, which is located within (give an accurate description of the boundary or area using features such as streams, rivers, trails, and roads; or the legal description citing townships, sections and ranges), as shown on the attached map (Exhibit A). **36 CFR 261.52 (e)**.
2. Being on any forest development road within the _____ Fire area, as shown on the attached map (Exhibit A). **36 CFR 261.54 (e)**.
3. Being on any forest development trail within the _____ Fire area, as shown on the attached map (Exhibit A). **36 CFR 261.55 (a)**.

Pursuant to **36 CFR 261.50 (e)**, the following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Owners or lessees of land in the area.
3. Any federal, state or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

These prohibitions are in addition to general prohibitions in **36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A**.

Executed in _____, Wyoming, this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Agency Line Officer

Violation of these prohibitions are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559 and 3571.

Example of orders for federal lands:

ORDER NO. _____
PARTIAL FIRE RESTRICTIONS
Agency Name

Pursuant to **36 CFR 261.50 (a) and (b)**, and due to fire danger, the following acts are prohibited on any area, under my jurisdiction within the Unit Name:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, barbecue or grill except in designated recreation sites. The use of portable stoves, lanterns using gas, jellied petroleum, pressurized liquid fuel or a fully enclosed (shepherd type) stove with a ¼" spark arrester type screen is permitted. **36 CFR 261.52 (a).**
2. Smoking, except in an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials. **36 CFR 261.52 (d).**
3. Operating a chainsaw without a USDA or SAE approved spark arrester properly installed and in effective working order, a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of 2A, and one round point shovel with an overall length of at least 36 inches. **36CFR 261.52(g) (j).**
4. Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame except in cleared areas of at least 10 feet in diameter and a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of at least 2A. **36 CFR 261.52(i) (g).**
5. Using an explosive requiring blasting caps. **36 CFR 261.52 (b).**

Pursuant to **36 CFR 261.50 (e)**, the following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Any federal, state or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty. These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions in **36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.**

Executed in _____, Wyoming, this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Agency Line Officer

Violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for more than six months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559 and 3571.

TERMINATION OF ORDER

Unit Name

Pursuant to Title **36 CFR 261.50 (a)** the prohibitions listed in Order Number _____, PARTIAL RESTRICTIONS/
FULL RESTRICTIONS applicable to the Unit Name, dated _____20__, and signed by Agency Administrator are
hereby terminated.

Date: _____ By: _____

Agency Line Officer

Violation of these prohibitions are punishable by a
fine of not more then \$5,000 for an individual or
\$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for
not more than six months, or both. 16 USC 551
and 18 USC 3559 and 3571.

Example of orders for federal lands:

ORDER NO. _____
FULL FIRE RESTRICTIONS
Agency Line Officer

Pursuant to **36 CFR 261.50 (a) and (b)**, and due to fire danger, the following acts are prohibited on any area, forest development road or trail under my jurisdiction within the Unit Name

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, barbecue, grill or stove fire, except in designated recreation sites. The use of portable stoves or lanterns using gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel is permitted. **36 CFR 261.52 (a).**
2. Smoking, except in an enclosed vehicle, building, or developed recreation site. **36 CFR 261.52 (d).**

The following acts are prohibited from 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

1. Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame. **36 CFR 261.52(i).**
2. Using an explosive. **36 CFR 261.52 (b).**
3. Operating an internal combustion engine, except on a forest development road. **36 CFR 261.52 (h).**
4. Operating a chainsaw. **36 CFR 261.52 (h).**

Pursuant to **36 CFR 261.50 (e)**, the following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Any federal, state or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty. These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions in **36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.**

Executed in _____, Wyoming, this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Agency Line Officer

Violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for more than six months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559 and 3571.

Example of order for state lands:

RESOLUTION NO. _____
ESTABLISHING FIRE RESTRICTION FOR _____ COUNTY

WHEREAS, based upon recommendation of the County Fire Warden, the board of _____ County Commissioners are empowered by Wyoming State Statute 35-9-301 through 35-9-304 to close areas to fire when fire danger in the county is extreme because of drought, the presence of any excessive amount of flammable material or for any other sufficient reason; and

WHEREAS, the County Fire Warden has recommended a partial closure of all state private land; and

WHEREAS the Board of _____ County Commissioners find there is an extreme danger of fire throughout _____ County because of drought conditions and there is a presence of an excessive amounts of flammable materials and the high fire danger is aggravated by open burning and the use of incendiary devices;

NOW THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF _____ COUNTY COMMISSIONERS;

1. Effective _____ at _____ until further notice of this Board, any open fire or discharge of any Class A, B, and/or C fireworks is prohibited on all unimproved state and private land including, but not limited to, all land owners by _____ County or in which _____ County holds or owns an interest, including county roads, easements and rights-of-way in _____ County. The prohibition is subject to the following exception:
 - A. Trash or refuse burned between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. inside containers equipped with spark arresters and are located within a cleared area that has at least ten (10) foot radius, and comply with all other laws and requirements.
 - B. Camp fires contained within an established fire ring at an established campground provided the fire is in compliance with BLM, Forest Service, and National Park Service regulations in effect at the time.
 - C. Charcoal fires within enclosed grills
 - D. Use of acetylene cutting torches or electric arc welder provided the torches or welders are used within cleared area with at least a ten (10) foot radius.
 - E. Propane or open fire branding activities provided the branding activities are conducted within a cleared area with at least a ten (10) foot radius.
 - F. Use of chain saw provided the chain saw have spark arresters properly installed and functioning.
 - G. Federal, State or local fire or law enforcement officers participating in fire, emergency, and law enforcement activities.
 - H. Public-sponsored fireworks display which are coordinated with the County Fire Warden or his designee.
2. Unimproved land is defined to mean cropland, agricultural land and undeveloped land which predominately remains in its natural forested or range condition.
3. The County Fire Warden shall promptly notify the Board of County Commissioners of any changes in the severity of the fire danger.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that penalties provided in W.S.S.35-9-304 may be imposed for violations of this resolution; specifically, a fine not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or imprisonment not to exceed thirty (30) days or both to which may be added cost of restitution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Fire Warden shall immediately notify the Wyoming State Forester of the limitation provided for by this Resolution, as well as any and all Commissioners' Rules and Regulations and shall assist in public notification by posting the order and circulating it to all local media.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of _____.

Chairman
BOARD _____ COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK