



News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &
Thunder Basin National Grassland
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>

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Fire Restrictions Partially Eased on Medicine Bow National Forest

(LARAMIE, Wyo.) July 30, 2012 – Effective Wednesday, August 1, Stage 2 Fire Restrictions, which have been in effect since late June, are being downgraded to Stage 1 on the south end of the Medicine Bow National Forest. This includes the Brush Creek-Hayden Ranger District based in Saratoga as well as the Laramie Ranger District.

This change is due primarily to moderating weather conditions that have provided sufficient precipitation to increase fuel moisture to acceptable levels. Last week restrictions were also eased on the Routt National Forest in Colorado.

Under Stage 1 Fire Restrictions, visitors to the southern Medicine Bow National Forest will once again be able to build and maintain campfires within agency provided fire grates, grills and rings at developed campgrounds and picnic areas. **However, any fires outside of developed, maintained campgrounds or picnic areas are still prohibited.** Stage 1 Restrictions remain necessary to protect public health and safety as well as natural resources.

Despite the recent increase in monsoon moisture, conditions still warrant Stage 2 Restrictions on the Douglas Ranger District where all fires are prohibited. This includes the Laramie Peak Unit of the Medicine Bow National Forest and the entire Thunder Basin National Grassland.

“We appreciate the understanding, patience and cooperation by the public over the past several weeks,” said Phil Cruz, Forest Supervisor for the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland (MBRTB). “The moderating weather has now allowed us to downgrade restrictions across most of the lands we manage. Hopefully soon we’ll be able to relax or eliminate restrictions on the Laramie Peak and Thunder Basin units as well.”

Under Stage 1 Restrictions the following prohibitions remain in effect until further notice.

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using any fire. **Exceptions include:**
 - a. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire or campfire within agency provided fire grates, grills and rings at developed campgrounds and picnic areas.
 - b. Using standard petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns or heating devices that are capable of being immediately shut off with a switch control.
2. Using any explosives.
3. Smoking; **except** within 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 material.
4. Welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame.

5. Operating or using any internal or external combustion engine without a spark arresting device properly installed, maintained and in effective working order.

Violation of these regulations is punishable as a class B misdemeanor, by a fine of not more than \$5000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment of not more than 6 months, or both. Anyone negligently or willfully starting a wildland fire could also be held responsible for the costs of that fire.

For more information contact the following Forest Service Offices, go to our website at <http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>, or you can follow the MBRTB on Twitter, **@MBRNFsTBNG**.

- Brush Creek-Hayden Ranger District, 2171 Highway 130, Saratoga, WY, (307) 326-5258
- Douglas Ranger District, 2250 E. Richards Street, Douglas, WY, (307)358-4690
- Laramie Ranger District, 2468 Jackson Street, Laramie, WY, (307)745-2300

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