

RESOLUTION 20-07-020
PARTIAL FIRE RESTRICTIONS IN SHERIDAN COUNTY

WHEREAS, the danger from forest and range fires on lands within Sheridan County has become critical; and

WHEREAS, the County's Fire Warden and rural fire protection districts believe that for the protection of life and property, restrictions should be instituted; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners recognizes the necessity for fire prevention measures in Sheridan County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Wyoming Statute 35-9-301, Boards of County Commissioners are duly authorized to close or limit use of any or all state, county and private lands that lie outside incorporated areas, within their respective counties, to open fires or other uses which constitute a serious threat of forest or range fire.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners, do hereby declare that fires and open flames shall be allowed in improved areas only within the following parameters, effective upon execution by the Chairman:

1. The fire restriction area shall include all state, county and private lands within Sheridan County except lands within the incorporated cities and towns. The restriction area does not include federal lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). These entities may impose more or less restrictive restrictions. Non-federal lands within the Bighorn National Forest boundary shall adhere to County fire restrictions only when National Forest fire restrictions are in place.
2. Charcoal fires are permitted when contained within enclosed grills.
3. Trash or refuse fires are permitted, between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., in a container provided with a spark arrester (a heavy gauged metal screen with no larger than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch openings in the screen), and located in the center of a cleared area, fifteen (15) feet in radius.
4. Campfires are permitted outside of the Bighorn National Forest boundary within established, commercial campgrounds or lodging facilities only if they are centered within a fifteen (15) foot cleared radius, free of any burnable vegetation or material. The fire ring or pit must be constructed of non-flammable materials covered by metal plate and/or a heavy gauged metal screen with no larger than $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch openings in the screen. Campground and/or lodge owners are responsible for any escapes and resulting damages.
5. Use of acetylene cutting torches or electric welders are permitted in cleared areas, fifteen (15) feet in radius.
6. Propane or open-fire branding activities are permitted in cleared areas, fifteen (15) feet in radius.
7. Discharge of all fireworks is strictly prohibited, unless a Permit for Supervised Public Display of Fireworks is granted by the Board of County Commissioners.
 - a. The term "fireworks" shall not be construed as being synonymous with "fireworks" under W.S. 35-10-201. As used herein, "fireworks" means any pyrotechnic or explosive device regardless of the quantity of explosive contained therein.
 - b. Use of exploding targets that use binary compounds of ammonium nitrate / aluminum powder mixture, (e.g. Tannerite), are prohibited.
8. There is no restriction on smoking.

9. There are no restrictions on cabin chimneys or flues. It is, however, advisable to install spark arresters or screens.
10. **Recreational fires are permitted** at single-family homes, duplexes, and townhomes **in accordance with the guidelines outlined below.** A recreational fire is an outdoor fire where materials other than rubbish are being burned, is not contained in a permanent fixture (incinerator, outdoor fireplace, BBQ grill), and is intended for cooking, warmth, religious, ceremonial, or other special purposes.
 - a. No fires are permitted when the National Weather Service issues a Red Flag or Fire Weather Warning for the area.
 - b. The fire must be centered within a fifteen (15) foot cleared radius, free of any burnable vegetation or material.
 - c. The fire must not have a total fuel area greater than three (3) feet in diameter and must be less than two (2) feet in height.
 - d. Fire extinguishing equipment must be on site (e.g., garden hose, fire extinguisher 4A Rating or water truck).
 - e. The fire must be constantly attended until completely extinguished.
 - f. The fire must be at least fifteen (15) feet away from a structure or combustible materials and must **not** at any point move any closer to the structure than the stated fifteen (15) foot distance.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in performance of an official duty is exempt from the fire restrictions.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to W.S. 35-9-304, any person violating this Resolution on state, county and private lands that fall under the jurisdiction of Sheridan County shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine not to exceed one-hundred dollars (\$100) or imprisonment in the County jail not to exceed thirty (30) days, or both such fine and imprisonment. Violators of these fire restrictions may also be held liable for the cost of damage to landowners' property caused by a wildfire.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution, supersedes all previous resolutions in conflict, and shall remain in full effect until such time as it may be amended or rescinded by Board action.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 7th day of July 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Sheridan County, Wyoming

Attest:



Nick Siddle, Chairman



Eda Schunk Thompson, County Clerk