STAGE II FIRE RESTRICTION ORDER

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. §551, and 36 C.F.R. §261.50(a) and 36 C.F.R. §261.50(b) the following acts are prohibited on the Flathead National Forest in Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, Missoula, and Lewis & Clark Counties in Montana. This Order will supersede and rescind the following special order, F10-011-S-21, only on Flathead National Forest lands outside the Bob Marshall Wilderness and Great Bear Wilderness.

PROHIBITION

1. 36 CFR § 261.52(a) Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire or stove fire.
2. 36 CFR § 261.52(d) 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 closed of all flammable material.
3. 36 CFR § 261.52(h) Operating an Internal Combustion Engine (see exemptions).
4. 36 CFR § 261.52(i) Welding or operating an acetylene or other torch with open flame (see exemptions).

PURPOSE

To minimize wildland fire ignitions, as a result of dry fuel conditions, from human caused sources.

STAGE II RESTRICTIONS AREA

The above prohibitions are in effect on all Flathead National Forest system lands, outside the Bob Marshall Wilderness and Great Bear Wilderness, within the exterior boundaries of the Flathead National Forest. See attached map listed as Exhibit A.

IMPLEMENTATION

This Order will be in effect on July 26th, 2021 at 00:01 hours (12:01 am) and shall remain in effect until December 1, 2021, or until rescinded, which ever comes first.

EXEMPTIONS

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. §261.50(e), the following are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons are exempt from the 36 CFR § 261.52(h) and 36 CFR § 261.52(i) prohibitions from 1:00 am to 1:00pm. Within these hours, a one-hour foot patrol in the work area is required following cessation of these exempted activities.
2. Persons with a written permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act.
3. Persons using a device solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off. Such devices can only be used in an area that is barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding flammable materials within three feet of the device.
4. Operating generators with an approved spark arresting device within an enclosed vehicle or building or in an area that is barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding flammable materials within three feet of the generator.
5. Operating motorized vehicles on designated roads and trails.
6. Emergency repair of public utilities and railroads conducted in accordance with the attached conditions set forth in Exhibit B.
7. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

PENALTY

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 not more than 6 months, or both (16 U.S.C. § 551 and 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559, 3571, and 3581).

INFORMATION

Further information regarding this order may be obtained at the Flathead National Forest office in Kalispell, MT, (406)758-5200. Done at Kalispell, Montana this 22 day of July 2021.

By: Kurtis E Steele
Forest Supervisor