



News Release

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

Contact: Larry Sandoval, (307) 745-2420

Fire Restrictions in Effect on the Routt National Forest

(LARAMIE, Wyo.) June 7, 2012 – Fire restrictions will go into effect on the Routt National Forest on June 8, 2012. Restrictions are necessary to protect public health and safety as well as natural resources. Record low snowpack in addition to an early and unseasonably warm, dry spring have prompted the restrictions.

“The dry conditions we are experiencing are projected to continue, making fuels that are already exceptionally dry even worse,” said Phil Cruz, Forest Supervisor for the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland (MBRTB). “We also need to be mindful of where we are in the fire season as activity typically increases nationally throughout the summer. Exercising early caution is appropriate as we weigh these factors and fire dangers increase.”

The following prohibitions are in effect until further notice.

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or stove fire. ***Exceptions include:***
 - a. Building, maintaining, attending or using any fire or campfire within agency provided fire grates, grills or rings at developed campgrounds or picnic areas, or within fully enclosed stoves, ovens or grills; and
 - b. Using standard petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns or heating devices.
2. Using 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, **@MBRNFS TBNG**.

- Hahns Peak-Bears Ears Ranger District, 925 Weiss Drive, Steamboat Springs, CO, (970)870-2299
- Parks Ranger District, 100 Main Street, Walden, CO, (970)723-2700
- Yampa Ranger District, 300 Roselawn Avenue, Yampa, CO, (970)638-4516
- Forest Supervisor’s Office, 2468 Jackson Street, Laramie, WY, (307)745-2300

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