



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE**

ROUTT NATIONAL FOREST

STAGE 1 FIRE PROHIBITIONS

PROHIBITIONS

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(a), the following are prohibited on the National Forest System (NFS) lands in the Routt National Forest, described below and shown on the attached map incorporated into this Order as Appendix A, hereinafter referred to as the “Described Area”:

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire (including fires fueled by charcoal or briquettes), except if it is in:
 - a. A permanent metal or concrete fire pit or grate that the U.S. Forest Service has installed and maintained at its developed recreation sites (campgrounds and picnic areas);
 - b. A device solely fueled by liquid or gas that can be turned on and off used in an area barren or cleared of all flammable materials within three feet of the device; or
 - c. A fully enclosed metal stove with a chimney at least five feet in length and a mesh screen spark arrestor with a screen opening of a ¼ inch or less used in an area that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials within 10 feet of the device.

36 CFR § 261.52(a).

2. Using an explosive. 36 C.F.R. § 261.52(b)
3. Smoking is prohibited, 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)
4. Welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame, except if in a cleared area of at least 10 feet in diameter and a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher (with a minimum 8 oz. capacity and rating of Class 2A) is kept with the operator. 36 CFR § 261.52(h)

EXEMPTIONS

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

1. Persons with Forest Service Permit No. FS-7700-48 (Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order), specifically exempting them from this Order or a written determination by a Forest Service authorized officer that a permit is not required under 36 C.F.R. § 251.50(e)(1) or (2)].
2. Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting service in the performance of an official duty.

DESCRIBED AREA

The described area is all NFS lands within the Routt National Forest.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Order is to protect natural resources and public health and safety.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order shall be in effect from June 19th at 12:01 AM through December 31, 2026, at 11:59 PM, unless rescinded.
2. A map identifying the Described Area is incorporated into this Order as Appendix A. For a digital version of this Order and Appendix A, go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/mbrtb/alerts>
3. Unless otherwise expressly defined in this Order, the terms used in this Order are defined by the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture, 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299. If there are terms in this Order that are not expressly defined in the Order or 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299, their meaning shall be determined by their plain language definitions.
4. A violation of the above prohibitions is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 U.S.C. § 551; 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559, 3571, and 3581.
5. Further information regarding this Order may be obtained at the Parks Ranger District Office in Walden, CO, 970-723-2700, and at the Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District Office in Steamboat Springs, CO, 970-870-2299, and at Yampa Ranger District Office in Yampa, CO, 970-638-4516, and at the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland Supervisor's Office in Laramie, WY, 307-745-2300.

6. This Order supersedes any previous Orders prohibiting the same or similar acts in the same Described Area.

Signed in Laramie, WY, this 17th day of June 2026.

**ALISON
LAYBOLT**

Digitally signed by ALISON
LAYBOLT
Date: 2026.06.17 13:15:07
-06'00'

A. Dawn Laybolt

Forest and Grassland Supervisor

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION FOR SUBPART B ORDER

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
ROUTT NATIONAL FOREST
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ASSESSMENT OF NEED

Purpose of Order

The Order is needed to protect the National Forest System (NFS) lands by prohibiting activities and conduct known to have a risk of causing a wildfire during times when environmental conditions also present a heightened wildfire risk. We are moving to Stage 1 Fire Restrictions on the Routt National Forests due to the following:

1. The current Fire Danger adjective rating is VERY HIGH with the weather forecast indicating no relief.
2. Plamer and/or US drought monitor current status and/or outlooks indicate exceptional to extreme drought. Wildfires historically increase when in moderate drought or higher.
3. 1000-hour fuel moisture content are below 12%.
4. Social, political, or economic impacts are expected.

With the issuance of this Order, the Forest will be in Stage I Fire Restrictions which is in coordination with counties and cooperators in the area.

Prior to the last day of the Order's effective term, if conditions allow for resumption of safe use and travel by Forest visitors, the Order may be rescinded or revised to address a smaller area or fewer roads.

Scope of Order

This Order will apply to all NFS lands within the Routt National Forest. These boundaries were selected because current environmental conditions present an increased risk of wildfire in the Described Area. The Forest Supervisor has determined prohibiting these activities is a necessary tool to help prevent wildfire within NFS Lands. The duration of the Order was selected because, with historic fire season and precipitation trends, it's anticipated fire danger may continue to rise. A map of the Described Area is attached to the Order (Exhibit A).

The Order will be in effect beginning June 19th, 2026, and will remain in effect through December 31st, 2026, unless rescinded sooner.

LAW ENFORCEMENT PLAN

Posting

The Order will be posted in the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland Supervisor's Office in Laramie, WY, the Parks Ranger District Office in Walden, CO, the Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District Office in Steamboat Springs, CO, and the Yampa Ranger District Office in Yampa, CO, as required in 36 CFR 261.51. It will also be posted to the [Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests & Thunder Basin National Grassland website](#) and shared on the forests social media pages, Facebook and X. Copies of the Order with the map will also be posted on the ground near the area impacted by the Order, at nearby parking areas, and other access points.

Coordination With Other Agencies

The Forest Service will notify the Sheriff's Office in counties whose jurisdictions are within the scope of the Order, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and other Federal, State, or local agencies about this Order.

Patrol Activities

Forest Service Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) or Forest Protection Officers (FPOs) will patrol the area affected by the Order and vicinity on a regular basis to ensure that posting of the Order is adequate, maintained, and being complied with. Forest Service LEOs and FPOs will contact unauthorized person(s) suspected of violating the Order.

No set schedule for patrolling will be established. Patrolling of the area will take place anytime of the day Sunday through Saturday. Patrolling will be more concentrated during the period immediately following signing of the Order.

Enforcement Strategies

Emphasis will be placed on informing the general public and Forest visitors of the Order in the hope of avoiding violations. Uniformed Forest Service LEOs and FPOs will be principally responsible for contacting persons suspected of violating the Order. Such persons will be advised of the restrictions, the actions needed to come into compliance and will be identified. A Violation Notice or Warning Notice may be issued, and they will be required to vacate the area where the violation occurred.

Exempt Persons

Order 02-06-00-26-168 exempts:

1. Persons with Forest Service Permit No. FS-7700-48 (Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order), specifically exempting them from this Order or a written determination by a Forest Service authorized officer that a permit is not required under 36 C.F.R. § 251.50(e)(1) or (2).
2. Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

CIVIL RIGHTS IMPACT ANALYSIS

This Order is not a policy action with civil rights implications. No one group will be affected more than another group. The Forest Service has determined that a Civil Rights Impact Analysis (CRIA) is therefore not required for this Order.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) COMPLIANCE

7 CFR 1b.4(c)(19) allows for Orders issued pursuant to 36 CFR part 261 for short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety to be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement. The prohibitions in the Order are consistent with this category of actions because they are short-term and are needed to protect public health and safety. No extraordinary circumstances are associated with the decision to issue this Order.

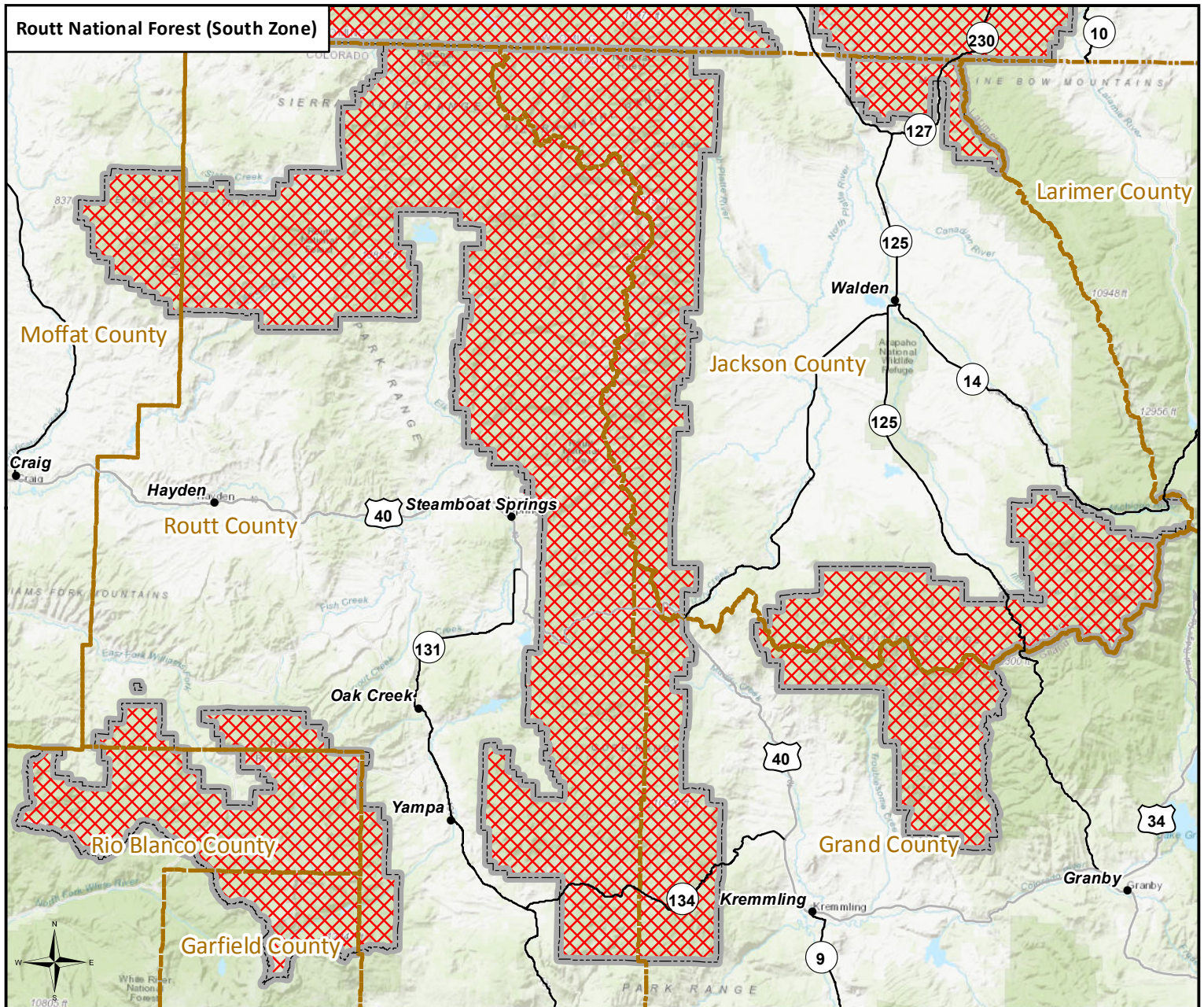


Medicine Bow - Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland



Stage Fire Prohibitions (Applies to National Forest System Lands Only)

Order #



- City
- Interstate
- State HWY
- US HWY
- County Boundary
- Forest Boundary
- Stage 1 Restricted Area

0 5 10 20 Miles

The purpose of this map is to show National Forest System lands subject to fire restrictions. Restrictions do not apply to non-Forest Service lands. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were intended may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace GIS products without notification.

Yampa Ranger District 300 Roselawn Ave PO Box 7 Yampa, CO 80483 (970) 638-4516	Parks Ranger District 100 Main Street PO Box 158 Walden, CO 80480 (970) 723-2700	Hahns Peak-Bears Ears Ranger District 925 Weiss Drive Steamboat Springs, CO 80487 (970) 870-2299	Forest Supervisor's Office 3838 Cherrywood East Loop Laramie, WY 82070 (307) 745-2300
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Fire Restriction Vicinity

Wyoming Colorado