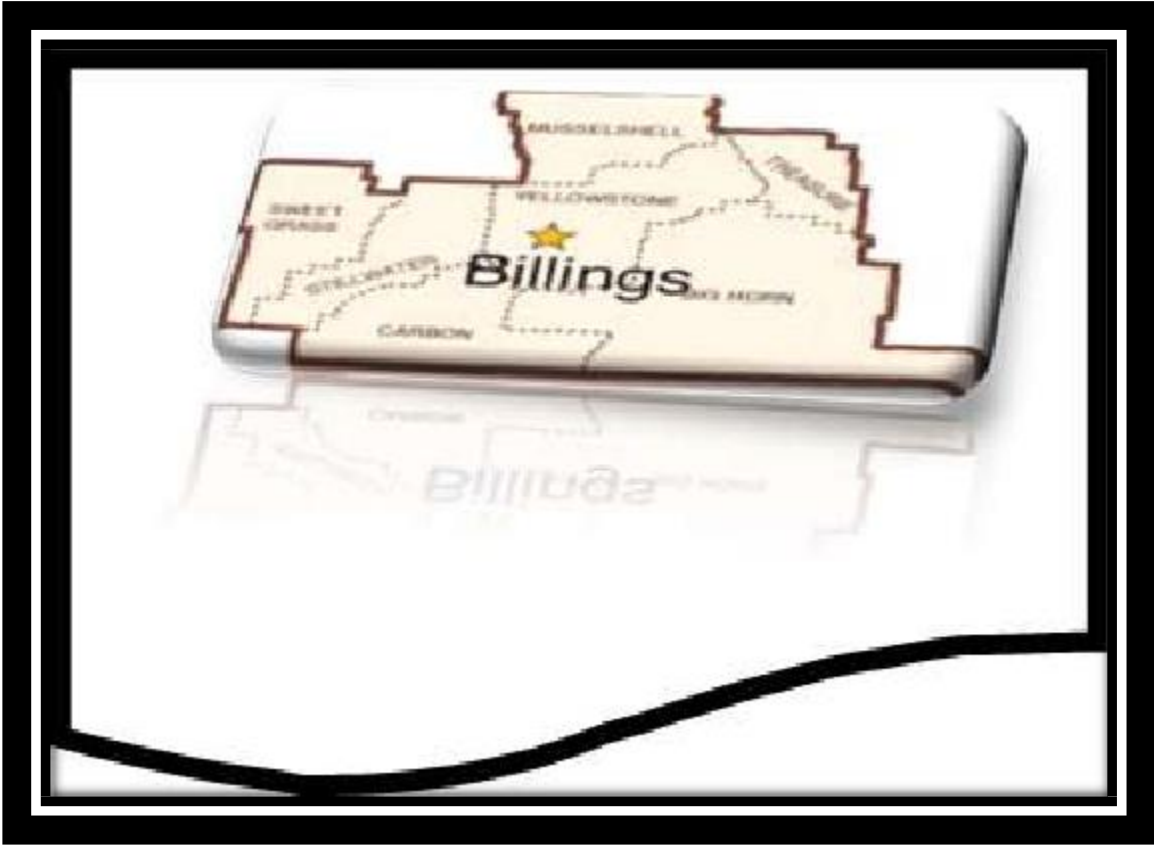


# 2021-2025 Restrictions and Closures Plan

## Billings Area



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# **FIRE RESTRICTIONS AND CLOSURES PLAN**

## **BILLINGS AREA**

### **I. Introduction**

This Fire Restriction and Closure Plan is a localized action plan tiered to the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group Restriction and Closure Procedures (updated June 1, 2001, updated July 2004, updated May 2007, updated 2020 ). The Billings Area Fire Restriction and Closure Plan details the coordination and decision- making process used to implement fire restrictions and closures in the Billings Area.

By their nature, fire restrictions and closures impose limitations on the general public and private industry, and should be implemented only after most other prevention measures have been taken. In general, fire restrictions should be considered when high to extreme fire danger exists and is predicted to persist. Other considerations are: the number of human-caused fire starts, the number and types of firefighting resources (both committed and available), potential high-risk occasions (4th of July, etc.), and large fire activity occurring in a county. Fire restrictions should be one of the last prevention tools to be used.

Area (small-scale) and large-scale forest closures have a large negative impact on the public, forest landowners, industrial operators, and fire agencies. They are implemented only under the most severe conditions, usually when fire danger and fuel conditions are such that firefighter and public safety can no longer be adequately secured.

### **II. Objectives**

- A. This plan will provide clear direction and responsibility for the coordination and implementation of fire restrictions and closures within the Billings Area.
- B. This plan will provide standardized wording, criteria, and process for implementing and rescinding fire restrictions and small-scale closures.

### **III. Cooperators**

Agencies, governmental entities, and tribes included in the Billings Area will be referred to as the “Cooperators” throughout this document. The Cooperators include:

- Counties: Big Horn, Carbon, Musselshell, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure, and Yellowstone
- BIA: Crow Reservation.
- Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Southern Land Office
- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:
- US NPS: Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument.
- USDA Forest Service: Beartooth Ranger District, Yellowstone Ranger District, Big Timber Ranger District, Absorka-Beartooth Wilderness.
- Bureau of Land Management: Billings Field Office

- USF&WS: Lake Mason Wildlife Refuge, Hailstone National Wildlife Refuge, Grass Lake National Wildlife Refuge
- National Weather Service: Billings

This plan will be updated for accuracy and distributed by May 1<sup>st</sup> of every third year valid, and will remain for a period of 5 years after signature. Any signatory to this plan may withdraw their participation for the following year by providing written notification to the Area Restrictions Coordinator by December 31.

#### **IV. Authorities**

##### **Fire Restrictions:**

The authority to implement fire restrictions lies with the Agency Administrators/County Commissioners/Tribal Chairperson for each of the Cooperators within the Billings Restrictions Area. When fire managers for the Cooperators within the Billings Area reach consensus that restrictions are needed, they will inform their respective Agency Administrator/County Commissioner/ Tribal Chairperson that the thresholds for implementing fire restrictions have been reached. Working with the Area Restrictions Coordinator, the Cooperators will coordinate the implementation and rescission of restrictions and small-scale closures, as well as the preparation of press releases for media use.

##### **Area (Small-Scale) Closures:**

The authority to implement Area closures lies with the Agency Administrator/ County Commissioner/ Tribal Chairperson whose land requires the closure. Small-scale closures are used for isolated areas where public and firefighter safety is a concern. When a single jurisdiction is involved, the Agency Administrator/County Commissioner/ Tribal Chairperson will inform the Area Restrictions Coordinator, who will then inform the other agencies/tribes within the Billings Restrictions Area. When more than one jurisdiction is involved, the Area Restrictions Coordinator is responsible for overseeing the necessary coordination.

##### **Large-scale Closures:**

The authority to implement large-scale closures lies with the Geographic Agency Administrators in the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (as listed in Appendix B). Because of the disruption they cause, they are instituted only during extended periods of extreme fire danger and fire activity. Such closures have in the past included all lands managed by one or several agencies across the State of Montana. Large-scale closures have required stationing National Guard troops at forest access road sites to enforce the closure. More information may be found in the “NRCG Restriction and Closure Procedures (June 1, 2001 updated July 2004, updated May 2007, updated 2020)”.

#### **V. Enabling Documents**

##### US Department of the Interior:

- **BLM Lands:** Fire restrictions and small-area closures are invoked and rescinded by “Fire Prevention Order” signed by the Field Office Manager
- **BIA Lands:** Covered by tribal order (see below)

US Fish and Wildlife Service:

- **US Fish and Wildlife Service:** Fire restrictions and small-area closures are invoked and rescinded by “Special Order” signed by the Project Leader.

USFS Lands:

Fire restrictions and small-area closures are invoked and rescinded by “Special Order” signed by the Forest Supervisor.

Tribal Trust and Tribal Fee Lands:

Fire restrictions and small-area closures are invoked and rescinded by “Tribal Order” signed by the Tribal Chairperson.

State and Private Forested Lands:

Fire restrictions and small-area closures are invoked and rescinded by “Proclamation” signed by the Montana State Forester. Statewide forest closure requires a proclamation by the governor of the State of Montana.

Non-Forested Lands (not within a city boundary and not listed above):

Fire restrictions and small-area closures are invoked and rescinded by “Resolution” signed by the County Commissioners.

## **VI. Area Location**

The Billings Restrictions Area includes all land in the following counties boundaries: See Page #13-14 for additional information.

- All lands within Big Horn, Carbon, Musselshell, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure and Yellowstone Counties.

## **VII. Responsibilities (see Appendices B, C, D, E for list of names)**

**Area Restrictions Coordinator:** a person chosen by the Cooperators in each restriction area. This person is responsible for coordination of the fire restriction/closure process and implementation of this Plan. Duties include: monitoring the fire restriction guidelines; gathering information from each Cooperator needed to make informed decisions; monitoring fire activity, ERC levels, and prevention efforts; notifying the NRCG of the Area's impending restrictions or rescinding of restrictions; communicating with neighboring areas on their activity; coordinating restriction orders/rescinding orders and date of implementation; and working closely with the media coordinator on public notification.

**Lead Agency Administrator:** may be a Forest Supervisor, DNRC Area Manager, Field Office Manager, Tribal Chairperson, etc. or a designee. The Lead Agency Administrator is responsible for ensuring that all Agency Administrators/Tribal Chairperson and local government are discussing restrictions and resolving issues within the Billings Restrictions Area that can't be resolved by the agency/tribal representatives.

**Agency/Tribal Fire Manager:** usually the agency/tribal Fire Management Officer or designee, these individuals are responsible for monitoring the local fire danger, informing Agency Administrators/Tribal Chairperson, notifying the tribal DES Coordinator and Area Restrictions Coordinator as conditions indicate the need for fire restrictions, and assist as needed to ensure public/agency notification of

restrictions.

**DNRC Representative:** a DNRC employee representative that serves as the State Liaison within the Billings Restrictions Area. This person is responsible for making appropriate contacts with the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, and other state political offices of impending restrictions within the Billings Area Restrictions and Closures area.

**Local Government Representative(s):** contact(s) for counties within the Billings Restrictions Area, keeps County DES and Fire Wardens informed, liaison for the county commissioners and city councils.

**Media Coordinator:** provides media contacts and cooperators with fire restriction press releases and keeps the Media Contact List updated. This person works closely with the Area Restrictions Coordinator to provide adequate and timely public notification of restrictions and closures.

### VIII. Decision Criteria

Fire restrictions and closures require a high degree of coordination among all levels within each agency and tribe, between all of the agencies and tribes in the restriction area, between restriction areas, and between the restriction areas and the NRCG Restrictions Coordinator. This process must be continuous from the time restrictions are first proposed, through the period of implementation, and until the rescinding of all restrictions / closures.

The Cooperators in the restriction area will continuously monitor weather, fuel conditions and other factors that will indicate when restrictions or closures are warranted. The decision criteria are a combination of all values, not just one or two. Current information on the primary criteria can be found at [www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/fuels\\_fire-danger/fuels\\_fire-danger.htm](http://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/fuels_fire-danger/fuels_fire-danger.htm).

And for NRCC indices [https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/predictive/fuels\\_fire-danger/graphs/psal4.htm](https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/predictive/fuels_fire-danger/graphs/psal4.htm)

CRITERIA	STAGE I	STAGE II	CLOSURE
ERC (3-day average)	90-94 <sup>th</sup> percentile	95-97 <sup>th</sup> percentile	98 <sup>th</sup> + percentile
Burn Index	90-94 <sup>th</sup> percentile	95-97 <sup>th</sup> percentile	98 <sup>th</sup> + percentile
Live Fuel Moisture	≤100	≤75	≤50
1000-hour fuels	≤14	≤13	≤12

Fuel Model Y used for fire danger rating system.

#### Other Criteria

- Initial attack resources are at draw-down level
- Status and availability of adjacent fire resources are at or reaching draw-down level
- Some significant events are occurring or are about to occur: (hunting season, etc.)
- Unusually high visitor use
- Regional preparedness level
- High number of human-caused fire starts including operations fires
- Adverse fire weather conditions and risks are predicted to continue
- Life safety is jeopardized

When fire managers see that the above-mentioned criteria are being approached, discussions on the need for restrictions will begin.

In addition to the above criteria for fire restrictions, the following additional criteria need to be evaluated whenever a closure is being considered.

- Potential for extreme or blowup fire behavior
- Potential loss of life or property due to extreme fire conditions
- Stage II restrictions are not effective in reducing the number of human-caused fires
- Resources across the geographic area are at a critical shortage level.

When trends indicate the need for restrictions, fire managers from each agency will advise their supervisors and Public Information Officers, and alert outlying offices of impending restrictions to provide enough lead time for prevention signing and for public notification. Many small community newspapers are only printed once a week. Their deadlines need to be considered. If at all possible, decisions should be made by Tuesday at noon if restrictions are expected to be invoked or canceled by the upcoming weekend. Restrictions should not be implemented during the weekend unless there is an emergency.

If one or more Cooperators within the restriction area are considering implementing fire restrictions, they will contact the Area Restrictions Coordinator who will call a meeting of all Cooperators within the area to talk about the need to start the restriction process. The decision to go into restrictions will be coordinated with adjacent restriction areas/agencies. The NRCG will be kept informed.

*Small-scale closures* may be necessary for isolated areas where public and firefighter safety is a concern. One example is an area around an ongoing incident. Another example is an area of hazardous fuels that is heavily used by the public. Area administrators/Tribal Chairpersons from the land where the fire is located will make that decision and coordinate with adjacent agencies/tribes through the Restrictions Coordinator. NRCG will be kept informed throughout the process.

*Large-scale closures* are implemented and coordinated by the Geographic Area Administrators. However, there are no established thresholds for initiating them. The GAA assess the situation in a given area or areas, evaluate the impacts of human-caused fires, critical resources, current and expected fire weather and fire behavior. They also consider the economic, social, and political impacts of implementing a large-scale closure.

## **IX. Implementation Procedures**

When one or more of the Cooperators determine that restrictions should be implemented or that the current restriction stage be raised, the Area Restrictions Coordinator is contacted and immediately organizes a meeting or conference call. Those required to participate include the Billings Area Fire Managers, County Fire Wardens, and Tribal Leaders (as listed in Appendix D). The leaders whose jurisdiction lies within the Restrictions Area will agree when to move into each stage of restriction. They have the flexibility to decide how much of the Area needs to be placed under restrictions. Not all of the Area needs to move into restrictions at the same time or be in the same restriction stage. **However, the Public needs to be able to easily understand the location of the areas that enter into restrictions and closures.**

The **final** decision to implement fire restrictions lies with each agency administrator, tribal leader or county commissioners.

The decision to implement *small-scale closure* lies with the agency administrator, tribal leader or county commissioners or whose land requires the closure. Where more than one jurisdiction is involved, the entities involved will coordinate these closures. The Area Restrictions Coordinator will immediately be informed of the decision and will inform the other cooperators within the restriction area and adjacent agencies and restriction areas. NRCG will be informed of the decision.

Geographic Agency Administrators will implement *large-scale closure* through NRCG

The time frame for moving in and out of restrictions and closures should allow for adequate public and agency notification. Enough time must be given in order to allow for preparation and coordinated issuance of the enabling documentation, exemptions, prevention signing, public notification, etc. For restrictions, three days is usually a minimum. Small-area closures are usually implemented (and lifted) in a more rapid fashion as the situation dictates.

Coordination with adjacent areas and other affected agencies in the restriction area that will be impacted (Disaster and Emergency Services, law enforcement entities, etc.) is essential. The Area Restrictions Coordinator will notify other areas/agencies of the decision in order to coordinate prevention signing and public information.

Fire prevention signing must be coordinated so the message is in line with the restrictions as they are implemented. Signing will be done by the agency responsible for fire protection.

After the decision has been made to go into restrictions or closures, all employees of all restriction area Cooperators should be notified immediately by their agency. The affected political offices (state and county) should also be contacted immediately. This will be the responsibility of the DNRC and local government representatives.

The next step is to issue the appropriate enabling documentation. To provide for interagency standardization across various ownerships, the wording for the two restriction stages as set forth in the “NRCG Restriction and Closure Procedures” will be used in all restriction orders (See Appendix G). Each agency shall have enabling documentation pre-written with the standardized wording. The Agency Administrator or Tribal Chairperson is responsible for signing the restrictions and small-scale closure documents and the NRCG Agency Administrator or BIA Representative is responsible for signing the large-scale closure documents.

Appendix G contains the standardized wording for the two restriction stages as found in the “NRCG Restriction and Closure Procedures.”

News releases will be issued immediately so the public has as much advance notice as possible, one day at minimum. This is the responsibility of the Billings Area Media Coordinator. News releases, brochures, PSAs, etc. will be prewritten and agreed upon by all agencies in the restriction area. The use of a fire information/media team to coordinate restriction press releases could be employed if deemed necessary.

All Cooperators in the restrictions area will send a **signed** copy of their restriction orders, with designated campfire sites attached, by FAX or e-mail to the Area Restrictions Coordinator as soon as they are signed. The Coordinator will e-mail copies to all Cooperators. If Cooperators go into closure, a list of



exemptions will be attached to the Closure document and sent to the Restrictions Coordinator. The Restrictions Coordinator will update the NRCG restrictions web site.

The Restrictions Coordinator will distribute (via email) minutes of conference calls and summaries of decisions made by the coordinating group and the proposed timetable for implementing restrictions and small-scale closures.

## **X. Rescission Procedures**

As with the implementation procedures, when one or more of the cooperators determine that restrictions should be rescinded or that the current stage be reduced, the Restriction Coordinator will be contacted, and they will organize a meeting and /or conference call.

When conditions subside, the same decision criteria used to implement the restrictions will be used and discussed to rescind the standing order(s), proclamation(s) and resolution(s).

The rescission of fire restrictions or closures requires rescinding documentation similar to that identified above in **V. Enabling Documentation**. The Restriction Area should plan implementation and rescission of restrictions for predicted long-term conditions and should be based upon the best available science. Care should be taken to not react to every small fluctuation in risk, weather, and fire danger; thus avoiding an up-down, up-down syndrome which could result in confusion and lack of support from our publics.

## **XI. Communications Plan**

Notification of key contacts and the general public concerning the implementation of Fire Restrictions or Closures is essential and should be accomplished immediately so as to avoid confusion. Contacts need to be told why, when, and to what degree they will be affected.

When weather conditions or special circumstances indicate a very high potential for devastating fires to occur, fire restrictions or closure will likely be imposed. When conditions warrant fire restrictions be implemented or changed, each Agency/Tribal Representative will advise their supervisors. All employees should be advised of the situation. The special order will be prepared and signed with enough lead-time to provide proper notifications and make preparations for appropriate prevention signing. The Area R&C Coordinator will ensure that orders are published

NRCG Restrictions and Closures website: [www.MTFireInfo.org](http://www.MTFireInfo.org)

Cooperator associations like BFPA and FiresafeMT.org, etc., may also publish information on fire restrictions and closures. Key contacts will be advised in a timely manner about decisions concerning implementation or rescission of restrictions or closure, see Appendix E (Contact List). This can best be handled through group e-mail process.

Each cooperator is responsible for notifying special use permittees and contractors such as outfitters and timber companies doing business on their land. The DNRC will notify state offices and the local government representative will notify county offices.

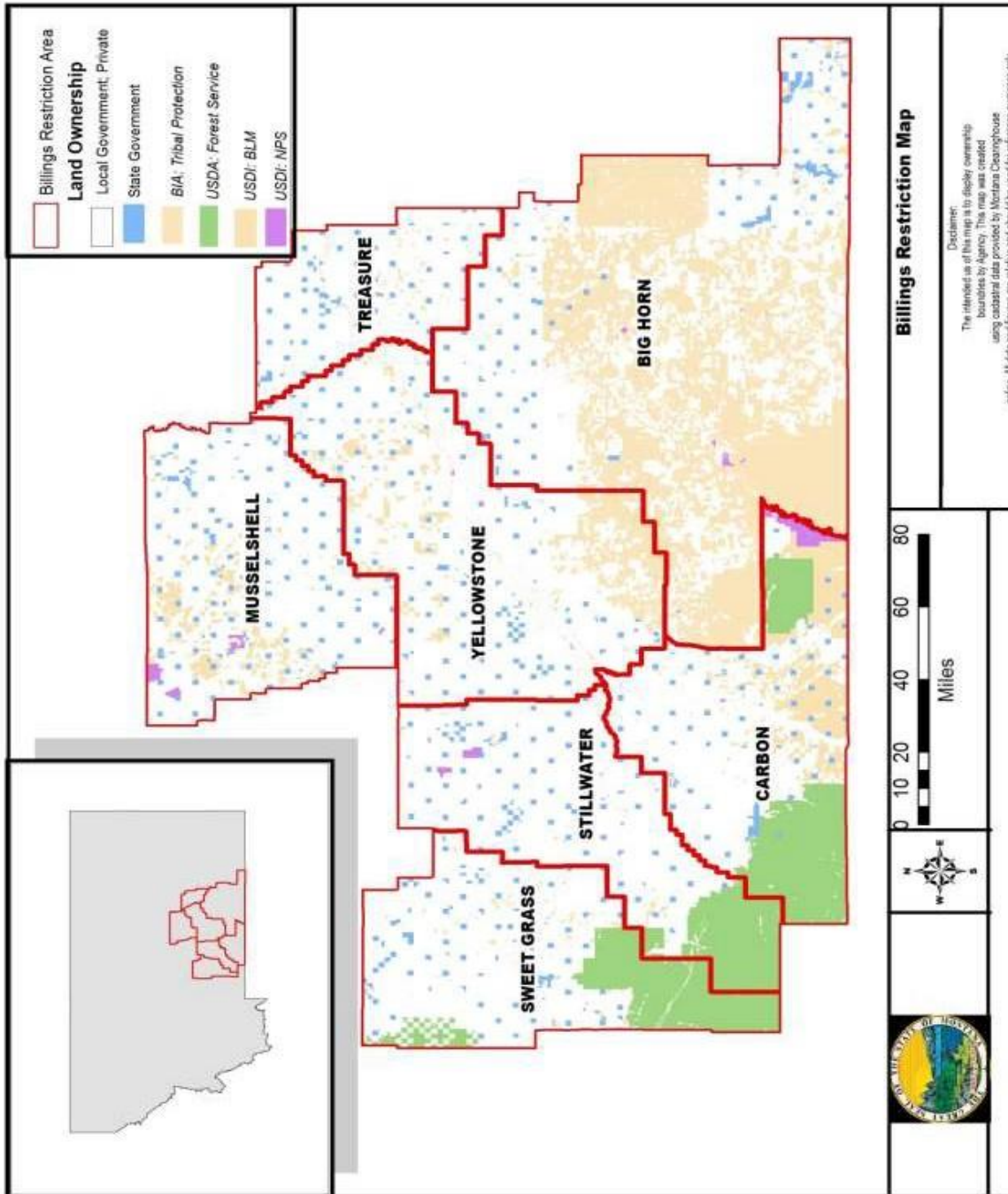
The general public will be notified through a combination of media news releases, PSAs, prevention signing, and personal contacts. Agencies and Cooperators are responsible for notifying the media/public about the current restriction situation.

The Area Media Coordinator will assist with keeping media information current and available to Agencies/ Cooperators and sharing examples of press release templates. Most media outlets receive their news through e-mail. Emails should contain information in the body, along with attaching documents to the email to assure information is delivered. Media Coordinators will have all press releases available in template format before the start of the fire season.

See Appendix F for the Media contact list. This list will be reviewed each year and updated as contacts change.

# Appendix A MAPS

Billings Restriction Area.....12  
 Statewide Restriction Zones.....13





## APPENDIX B

### NORTHERN ROCKIES COORDINATING GROUP BOARD OF DIRECTORS January 2021

#### **Ray Hart**

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#### **Pamela Jolly**

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## APPENDIX C

### BILLINGS AREA AGENCY ADMINISTRATORS AND COUNTY COMMISIONERS

Position	Name	Agency	Phone	E-mail
Manager	Camrud, Jodi	BIA Rocky Mountain Region	406-247-7943	<a href="mailto:Jodi.camrud@bia.gov">Jodi.camrud@bia.gov</a>
Manager	Lefevre, David	BLM Billings Field Office	896-5349 (w) 670-3908 (m)	<a href="mailto:dlefevre@blm.gov">dlefevre@blm.gov</a>
Commissioner	Real Bird III, George	County of Big Horn	406-665-9700	
	Fitzpatrick, Sidney			
	Vandersloot, Larry			
Admin Asst	Wells, Candy	County of Big Horn		<a href="mailto:cwells@bighorncountymt.gov">cwells@bighorncountymt.gov</a>
Commissioner	Scott, Miller	County of Carbon	(406) 446-1595	
	Blain, Scott			
	Bullock, Bill			
Commissioner	Mike Goffena	County of Musselshell	323-0095	<a href="mailto:mgoffena@co.musselshell.mt.us">mgoffena@co.musselshell.mt.us</a>
	Bob Pancratz		331-0096	<a href="mailto:rpancratz@co.musselshell.us">rpancratz@co.musselshell.us</a>
	Mike Turley		331-0097	<a href="mailto:mturley@co.musselshell.mt.us">mturley@co.musselshell.mt.us</a>
Commissioner	Mark Crago	County of Stillwater	406-322-8010	<a href="mailto:mcrago@stillwatercountymt.gov">mcrago@stillwatercountymt.gov</a>
	Steve Riveland			<a href="mailto:sriveland@stillwatercountymt.gov">sriveland@stillwatercountymt.gov</a>
	Hamilton, Tyrel			<a href="mailto:thamilton@stillwatercountymt.gov">thamilton@stillwatercountymt.gov</a>
Admin Asst	Shannon, Fisher	Comm Assistant Stillwater		<a href="mailto:commission@stillwatercountymt.gov">commission@stillwatercountymt.gov</a>
Commissioner	Wallace, Bill	County of Sweet Grass	406-932-5152	
	Moody, JV			
	Roe, Melanie			
Clerk & Recorder	Pederson, Vera	County of Sweet Grass		<a href="mailto:sgclerk1@itstriangle.com">sgclerk1@itstriangle.com</a>
Commissioner	Mehr, Marlo Chair	County of Treasure	679-2223 C	
	Ruth Baker		860-0734	
	Baue, Ruth		342-5328 H	
Clerk & Recorder	Sears, Marlee	County of Treasure		<a href="mailto:msears@treasurecountymt.com">msears@treasurecountymt.com</a>
Commissioner	Jones, Donald	County of Yellowstone	406-256-2701	<a href="mailto:commission@co.yellowstone.mt.gov">commission@co.yellowstone.mt.gov</a>
	Ostlund, John			
	Pitman, Denis			
Area Manager	Bollman, Jeff	DNRC Southern Land Office	406-247-4404	<a href="mailto:mailto:jbollman@mt.gov">mailto:jbollman@mt.gov</a>
Manager	Santavy, Paul	US Fish & Wildlife Service		
Forest Supervisor	Erickson, Mary	USFS Custer Gallatin NF		

## APPENDIX D

### BILLINGS AREA FIRE RESTRICTIONS REPRESENTATIVE & Contact List

Title	Name	Agency	Phone	E-mail
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Restriction Coordinator ALT.	Mike Boettcher	DNRC Southern Land Office	247-4405	<a href="mailto:mboettcher@mt.gov">mboettcher@mt.gov</a>
Media Coordinator	Boucher, Ann	BLM MT/DAK State Office	896-5255	<a href="mailto:aboucher@blm.gov">aboucher@blm.gov</a>
Media Coordinator Alt.	Neal, Colby	BLM Montana State Office	896-5228	<a href="mailto:cneal@blm.gov">cneal@blm.gov</a>
Media Coordinator State office	Al, Nash	BLM Montana state office	896-5260	<a href="mailto:al_nash@blm.gov">al_nash@blm.gov</a>
Media Coordinator EMDD	Mark, Jacobesen	EMDD	233-2831	<a href="mailto:mjacobse@blm.gov">mjacobse@blm.gov</a>
NWS Billings			406-652-2314	<a href="mailto:nws.billings@noaa.gov">nws.billings@noaa.gov</a>
BIA Crow Agency Fire Management Officer	Spang, Tracy	BIA Crow Agency	638-2247	<a href="mailto:tracy.spang@bia.gov">tracy.spang@bia.gov</a>
BIA Crow Agency Fire Prevention	Old Bear, Lee	BIA Crow Agency	638-2247	<a href="mailto:lee.oldbear@bia.gov">lee.oldbear@bia.gov</a>
BIA Rocky Mountain Regional Office Fire Prevention	Rogers, Bryce	BIA Rocky Mountain Region	247-7949	<a href="mailto:bia.rmr.fire@gmail.com">bia.rmr.fire@gmail.com</a>
Billings Dispatch Center Manager	Pollock, Angeline	BLM Billings Field Office	896-2901	<a href="mailto:apollock@blm.gov">apollock@blm.gov</a>
BLM Field Office Manager Billings	Lefevre, David	BLM Billings Field Office	896-5349	<a href="mailto:dlefevre@blm.gov">dlefevre@blm.gov</a>
BLM Fire Management Officer Billings	Howells, Craig	BLM Billings Field Office	896-2971	<a href="mailto:chowells@blm.gov">chowells@blm.gov</a>
BLM Montana/Dakota State Office	Barth, Chris	BLM Montana State Office	896-2977	<a href="mailto:cbarth@blm.gov">cbarth@blm.gov</a>
DNRC, Fire Prevention Specialist	Sleeper, Kristin	DNRC Montana	542-4251	<a href="mailto:kristin.sleeper@mt.gov">kristin.sleeper@mt.gov</a>
DNRC, SLO. Fire Program Manager	Brown, Jeff	DNRC Southern Land Office	247-4406	<a href="mailto:jbrown8@mt.gov">jbrown8@mt.gov</a>
DNRC, SLO. Restrictions	Boettcher, Mike	DNRC Southern Land Office	247-4405	<a href="mailto:michael.boettcher@mt.gov">michael.boettcher@mt.gov</a>
Montana Fish Wildlife, and Parks Region 5	Gibson, Bob	MT Fish Wildlife & Parks	247-2950	<a href="mailto:bgibson@mt.gov">bgibson@mt.gov</a>
Montana Fish Wildlife, and Parks Region 7	Prell, Marla	MT Fish Wildlife & Parks	234-0926	<a href="mailto:mprell@mt.gov">mprell@mt.gov</a>
NPS Bighorn Canyon NRA Fire Management Officer	Devore, Scott	US Fish & Wildlife Service	307-548-2251	<a href="mailto:scott_m_devore@nps.gov">scott_m_devore@nps.gov</a>
US Fish and Wildlife Service Fire Management Officer Lewistown	Forsythe, Jim	US Fish & Wildlife Service	366-0780	<a href="mailto:james_forsythe@fws.gov">james_forsythe@fws.gov</a>
USFS Custer Gallatin NF Fire Staff	Schuster, Scott	USFS Custer Gallatin NF		<a href="mailto:scott.schuster@usda.gov">scott.schuster@usda.gov</a>
USFS Custer Gallatin NF Public Affairs	Daley, Marna	USFS Custer Gallatin NF	587-6703	<a href="mailto:mdaley@usda.gov">mdaley@usda.gov</a>
Custer Gallatin N.F. Beartooth RD Fire Management Officer	Flick, Jeffrey	USFS Custer Gallatin NF	446-4538	<a href="mailto:jeffrey.flick@usda.gov">jeffrey.flick@usda.gov</a>
PIO Custer Gallatin N.F.	Marna Daley	USFS Custer Gallatin NF	570-5526	<a href="mailto:marna.daley@usda.gov">marna.daley@usda.gov</a>
Custer Gallatin N.F. Yellowstone District Fire Management Officer	Sites, Ashley	USFS Custer Gallatin NF	223-0143	<a href="mailto:ashley.sites@usda.gov">ashley.sites@usda.gov</a>
PIO Custer Gallatin N.F.	Forrest, Ford	USFS Custer Gallatin NR	223-5630	<a href="mailto:Forrest.ford@usda.gov">Forrest.ford@usda.gov</a>

<b>Fire Warden Big Horn County</b>	Matt Redden	Big Horn County	406-665-9860	mredden@bighorncountymt.gov
<b>Fire Warden Carbon County</b>	Tom Kohley	Carbon County	406-446-1038	tkohley@carboncomt.com
<b>Fire Warden Musselshell County</b>	Justin Russell Andrew Harper	Musselshell County	323-2777	jrussell@co.musselshell.mt.us
<b>Fire Warden Stillwater County</b>	Bill Pronovost	Stillwater County	322-8060	wpronovost@stillwatercountymt.gov
<b>Fire Warden Treasure County</b>	Marlo Moehr	Treasure County	679-2223	Salenna_Moehr@hotmail.com
<b>Fire Warden Yellowstone County</b>	KC Williams	Yellowstone County	256-2776	kwilliams@co.yellowstone.mt.gov
<b>Fire Warden Sweet Grass County</b>	Kris Novotny	Sweet Grass County	932-5483	<a href="mailto:pwbtmt@mtintouch.net">pwbtmt@mtintouch.net</a>

## APPENDIX E

### MEDIA CONTACTS

#### YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

	Address	Deadline	Phone	FAX	Email
Agri-News	P.O. Box 30755 Billings, MT 59107	5 pm Monday	259-5406	259-6888	editor@imt.net
Billings Gazette	P.O. Box 36300 Billings, MT 59107-6300	End of day	657-1311	657-1208	news@billingsgazette.com
Billings Outpost	1833 Grand Avenue Billings, MT 59102		248-1616	248-2414	editor@billingsnews.com
Laurel Outlook	P.O. Box 278 Laurel, MT 59044	Published Wed.	628-4412	628-8260	news@laureloutlook.com
Western Livestock Reporter	P.O. Box 30755 Billings, MT 59107	5 pm Thurs.	259-4859	259-6888	wlrpubs@imt.net
Yellowstone County News	P.O. Box 395 117 Northern Ave Huntley, MT 59037	Published Wed.	348-2649	348-2650	info@yellowstonecountynews.com
KCTR 102.9 KMHK 95.5/95.1 KBBB 103.9 KKBR 97.1 KBUL 970 AM	Clear Channel Radio 27 N. 27th Billings, MT 59101		248-7827	252-9577	karenhannah@clearchannel.com
KBLG 910 AM KRKK 94.1 FM KCMT 96.3 FM KYAA 93.3 FM	Fisher Radio 2075 Central Ave Billings, MT 59102		652-8400	652-4899	newsroom@kblg.com
KEMC FM	Public Radio 1500 North 30th Billings, MT 59101		657-2987	657-2977	jyamanaka@yellowstonepublicradio.org OR jyamanaka@aol.com
KURL AM 730	636 Haugen Billings, MT		245-3121	245-0822	
KBEX KGHL AM- FM KRSQ KZRV	New Northwest Broadcasters 222 N. 32nd Billings, MT 59101		238-1000	238-1038	info@nnbradio.com
KBSR AM 1490	Big Sky Radio P.O. Box 248 Laurel, MT 59044		628-8271	665-2131	bigskyrad@aol.com
Northern Ag Network	P.O. Box 1742 600 1st Ave North Billings, MT 59103,59101		252-6661	245-9755	newsdesk@northernbroadcasting.com
KTVQ 2 TV	32022 Avenue North Billings, MT 59101		252-5611	869-2249	



KULR 8 TV	2045 Overland Ave Billings, MT 59102	656-8000	655-2688	news@kulr.com
KHMT TV	445 S. 24th St. W Billings, MT 59102	652-7366	252-9938	
KSVI TV	445 S. 24th St. W Billings, MT 59102	652-4743	652-6963	

#### BIG HORN COUNTY

Media	Address	Deadline	Phone	FAX	Email
Big Horn County News	P.O. Box 926 Hardin, MT 59034	1 pm Tues. Publ. Thursday	665-1008	665-1012	news@bighorncountynews.com
KHDN AM 1230	P.O. Box 230 Hardin, MT 59034		665-2828	665-2131	linda@bigskybriefs.net
Hardin Original	310 N. Center				thebriefs@digitaldevelopment.net
Briefs	Ave. Hardin, MT 59034				

#### CARBON COUNTY

Media	Address	Deadline	Phone	FAX	Email
Carbon County News	P.O. Box 970 Red Lodge, MT 59068	Published Thursday	446-2222	446-2225	news@carboncountynews.com
The Mountain FM 99	16 Two Mile Bridge Rd Red Lodge, MT 59068		446-9178		fm99mtn@starband.net

#### MUSSELSHELL COUNTY

Media	Address	Deadline	Phone	FAX	Email
Roundup Record Tribune	P.O. Box 350 Roundup, MT 59072	5pm Monday Published Wednesday	323-1105	323-1761	rtrnews@midrivers.com
Roundup Herald	34 Tumbleweed RD Roundup MT	Noon Thursday	323-4414		roundupherald@gmail.com
Roundup 99.9 Community Radio KLMB 9999.9	706 main st Roundup, MT 59072		323-8830 For immediate update call 406- 861-1279		

#### STILLWATER COUNTY

Media	Address	Deadline	Phone	FAX	Email
Stillwater County News	P.O. Box 659 Columbus, MT 59019	Noon Tues Published Thursday	322-5212	322-5391	editor@stillwatercountynews.com

#### SWEET GRASS COUNTY

Media	Address	Deadline	Phone	FAX	Email
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Big Timber Pioneer	P.O. Box 190 Big Timber, MT 59011	3 PM Wednesday Published Thursday	932-5298	932-4931	pioreporter@yahoo.com
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**TREASURE COUNTY**

Media	Address	Deadline	Phone	FAX	Email
Independent Press	P.O. Box 106 Forsyth, MT		406-346-2149	406-346-2140	

**OTHER MEDIA**

Media	Address	Phone	FAX	Email
Associated Press	Helena, MT	442-7440	442-5162	hlne@ap.org

## APPENDIX F

### STAGE I FIRE RESTRICTIONS

#### **The Following Acts Are Prohibited Until Further Notice:**

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire unless as noted in the exemptions below.
2. 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 materials.

#### **Stage I Exemptions:**

1. Persons with a written permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act.
2. 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 materials within three feet of the device.
3. Persons conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice.
4. Any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
5. All land within a city boundary is exempted.
6. Other exemptions unique to each agency/tribe.

#### **Violations:**

- You could be fined up to \$5,000 individually or \$10,000 for an organization and imprisoned up to 6 months for violating restrictions and closures.
- You can be held liable for all suppression costs and damages if you start a fire.

## **STAGE II RESTRICTIONS**

### **The Following Acts Are Prohibited Until Further Notice:**

1. Building maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire.
2. 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 materials.
3. The following acts are prohibited from 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.:
  - a. Operating any internal combustion engine.
  - b. Welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame.
  - c. Using an explosive

A one-hour foot patrol in the work area is required following the cessation of all activities as identified in #3 above.

4. Operating motorized vehicles off designated roads and trails.

### **Stage II Exemptions:**

1. Persons with a written permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act.
2. 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 3 feet of the device.
3. 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.
4. Operating motorized vehicles on designated roads and trails.
5. Emergency repair of public utilities and railroads as per attached conditions
6. Persons conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice.
7. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
8. All land within a city boundary is exempted.
9. Other exemptions unique to each agency/tribe.

### **Violations:**

- You could be fined up to \$5,000 individually or \$10,000 for an organization and imprisoned up to 6 months for violating restrictions and closures.
- You can be held liable for all suppression costs and damages if you start a fire

## **SMALL-SCALE CLOSURE**

### **The following acts are prohibited until further notice:**

Going into or being upon the following described areas without a written permit:  
(Description of area)

#### **Exemptions:**

1. Actual residents going to or from their home.
2. Persons traveling on paved and numbered highways.
3. Persons occupying designated improved campgrounds immediately adjacent to such highways.
4. Any Federal, State, or local official, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

Appendix G

SIGNATURE PAGE

We agree to the Billings Area Fire Restrictions and Closure Plan for 2021-2025.

Tom Kohley 05.11.21

Matt Redden 5/12/21

Matt Redden, Fire Warden  
Big Horn County

Date

Tom Kohley, Fire Warden  
Carbon County

Date

Justin Russell

May 10, 2021

Justin Russell, Fire Warden  
Musselshell County

Date

Bill Pronovost

5-3-21

Bill Pronovost, Fire Warden  
Stillwater County

Date

Marlo Moehr 4/6/21

Kris Novotny 5-27-21

Kris Novotny, Fire Warden  
Sweet Grass County

Date

Marlo Moehr, Fire Warden  
Treasure County

Date

K.C. Williams 4-29-21

KC Williams, Fire Warden  
Yellowstone County

Date

SCOTT SCHUSTER  
Digitally signed by SCOTT SCHUSTER  
Date: 2021.04.29 07:47:56 -06'00'

4/29/2021

Scott Schuster, FMO  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Custer/Gallatin National Forest

Date

C. Bryll 5/2/21

Bryll

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Date: 2021.05.24 14:27:25 -06'00'

