

SWEET GRASS COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 07-01-2021

A RESOLUTION IMPLEMENTING STAGE Z FIRE RESTRICTIONS

COUNTY WIDE IN SWEET GRASS COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Billings Area Restrictions Group was formed after the 2000 fire season to coordinate fire restrictions and closures on state, federal and private land in a seven county area surrounding Billings; and

WHEREAS, the Billings Area Restrictions Group has representatives from the Custer National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Services, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the counties of Big Horn, Carbon, Musselshell, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure and Yellowstone; and

WHEREAS, the group works to ensure that any fire restrictions placed in the area are not only warranted, but that they are also consistent and easy to understand; and

WHEREAS, during fire season, the group convenes regularly by phone to discuss current conditions, and carefully considering factors such as weather conditions, fuel moisture, availability of fire suppression resources, and economic impacts, the group determines whether or not restrictions are warranted and then issues one joint message to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has unanimously recognized the necessity for fire control measures in Sweet Grass County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has received requests from the Fire Chief from the local Fire Department to implement a restriction on open burning due to the fire danger; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7-33-2205 MCA, the Board of County Commissioners are hereby authorized to establish fire seasons annually during which no person may ignite or set any forest fire, slash-burning, land-clearing fire, debris-burning fire, or open fire within the county protection area on any forest, range, or crop lands subject to the provisions of this part without having obtained an official written permit to ignite or set such fire from the recognized protection agency for the protection area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners, hereby declare that fire and open burning be restricted under Stage 2 Restrictions (see attached) developed by the Billings Area Restrictions Group which applies to all lands within Sweet Grass County's jurisdiction except lands located within the City of Big Timber.

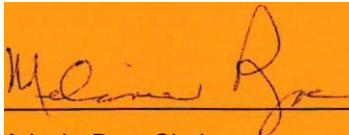
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 7-33-2206 MCA, any person violating this resolution on lands that fall under the jurisdiction of Sweet Grass County shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this resolution becomes effective July 3, 2021 at 12:01 AM and shall remain in effect until such time as it may be amended or rescinded by Board of County Commissioner action.

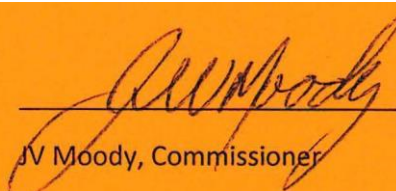
DATED THIS 5<sup>th</sup> Day of July, 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

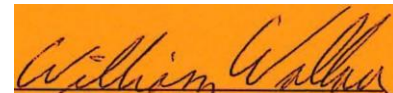
SWEET GRASS COUNTY



Melanie Roe, Chair



JV Moody, Commissioner



William Wallace, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Vera Pederson, Clerk & Recorder

## STAGE 2

### FIRE RESTRICTIONS

EFFECTIVE 12:01 AM

Saturday, July 3rd, 2021

Implemented by the Sweet Grass County Board of Commissioners

Pursuant to Adoption of Resolution 07-01-2021 \_\_\_\_\_

### 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.:
  - o a. Operating any internal combustion engine.
  - o b. Welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame.
  - o c. Using an explosive.

A one-hour foot patrol in the work area is required following cessation of all activities as identified in #3 above.
4. Operating motorized vehicles off designated roads and trails.

### Exemptions:


1. Persons with a written permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act.
2. Persons using a device fueled solely 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.
  - 3g. Agriculture harvesting, and off road activities associated with the agricultural operations (e.g. maintaining livestock, watering facilities, etc). Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to keep harvesting equipment in good working order to prevent sparks, provide spark arrestors, and to carry firefighting tools with them while harvesting and tending to other agriculture operations off road.
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 imprisonment 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.

Dated this 1 St\_day of July, 2021

### SWEET GRASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Melanie Roe, Chair



JV Moody, Commissioner



William Wallace, Commissioner

Sweet Grass County website - [www.sweetgrasscountygov.com](http://www.sweetgrasscountygov.com)