

NEWS

U.S. Department
of the Interior



Bureau of Land
Management

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Bureau of
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Forest
Service

Montana



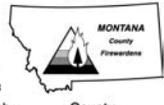
Department of Natural
Resources and Conservation

Montana



Department of Fish,
Wildlife and Parks

Montana



County
Firewardens

Date: October 10, 2003

Contact: Ann Boucher

406-896-5011

Fire Restrictions Rescinded

Fire restrictions in most of south central Montana will be rescinded October 11 due to additional rainfall, higher humidity and cooler temperatures.

For much of the summer, hot and dry conditions prompted Stage II fire restrictions on private, state and federal lands in Big Horn, Carbon, Musselshell, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure and Yellowstone counties. All these restrictions will be lifted at 12:01 a.m. October 11 except for land under the jurisdiction of Musselshell and Yellowstone counties. However, those counties expect to lift restrictions on Tuesday, October 14.

Also beginning October 11, motorized vehicles will again be allowed in the areas generally known as the South Hills near Billings, the Shepherd Ah-Nei area north of Shepherd, and the Acton area northeast of Billings. These areas had been closed to motorized vehicles because of fire danger.

Most fire restrictions in the rest of the state have also been rescinded.

Burn permits are still required for any open burning, and may be obtained from the county. Please also notify your local dispatch center and local fire chief of your burn plans.

Although restrictions have been lifted, the drought continues and fire danger persists. Please be cautious when working and recreating outdoors: make sure chainsaws and vehicles have spark arresters in place; stop and park only in areas cleared of vegetation; ensure that your campfire is dead out before you leave; and always carry a shovel, bucket and fire extinguisher.

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Keep our public lands beautiful by playing it smart. Anyone who causes a wildland fire intentionally or through negligence may be held accountable for damage and suppression costs.

For more information, please contact the Custer National Forest (406-657-6200); Bureau of Land Management (406-896-5013); Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (406-247-4400); Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (406-247-2940); Carbon County (406-446-1595); Stillwater County (406-321-0204); your local sheriff's office; or fire wardens for the counties of Big Horn (406-665-9860), Carbon (406-662-3237), Musselshell (406-861-0160), Stillwater (406-322-5326), Sweet Grass (406-932-5136), Treasure (406-342-5211), or Yellowstone (406-256-2775).

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