

PLATTE COUNTY RESOLUTION #2024-11

DECLARING A FIRE BAN IN PLATTE COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Platte County Fire Warden has recommended on this day a temporary partial closure of all private lands within unincorporated areas of Platte County, Wyoming, to the use of open fires and incendiary devices, for an indefinite period; and,

WHEREAS, short-term weather forecast predicts above-average temperatures and low humidity for the next few weeks across much of southeastern Wyoming with the potential for strong winds; and,

WHEREAS, while recent moisture in parts of the county has minimized current fire danger, other parts of the county remain relatively dry; and

WHEREAS, fire starts from natural causes are beyond anyone's control but the Board of County Commissioners of Platte County has the ability to reduce the number of man-caused fires; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Platte County agree that early preventive measures outlined in this resolution are essential to reduce the size and cost of wildland fires; and,

WHEREAS, Wyoming Statutes §35-9-301, 35-9-302, and 35-9-303, give the Platte County Board of County Commissioners the authority, if certain conditions are met to "...close the area to any form of use by the public or may limit such use..", and

WHEREAS, it is uncertain how long the conditions may continue;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PLATTE COUNTY, WYOMING, that effective at noon on the 14th day of June 2024, all privately-owned unincorporated areas within the boundaries of Platte County are subject to a partial closure and all outdoor fires and discharge of all fireworks are prohibited except as follows:

- (i) Frontier Astronautics LLC is excluded for the purpose of testing rocket engines, flight vehicles, and their associated hardware at their testing facility located at 609 Windmill Road. All fire suppression costs associated with this exemption will be paid by Frontier Astronautics
- (ii) Attended trash or refuse fires between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., inside containers provided with spark arresters or screens and located within an area cleared of all vegetation ten (10) feet in radius from the container, are permitted on private lands.
- (iii) Attended wood and propane campfires contained within a fire ring lined with rock or similar non-combustible material are permitted on private lands if fire suppression is immediately available, except on lands managed by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission where all campfires are prohibited.
- (iv) Attended charcoal and propane fires within an enclosed grill are permitted on private lands, except on lands managed by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission where additional restrictions may be imposed.
- (v) Use of acetylene cutting torches or electric arc welders in an area cleared of all vegetation within ten (10) feet in radius from any ignition source are permitted on private lands.
- (vi) Propane or open fire branding activities in an area cleared of all vegetation ten (10) feet in radius from any source of ignition are permitted on private lands.
- (vii) Fire departments are excluded from this resolution while conducting fire suppression activities or training.
- (viii) The lands under the Wyoming Military Department including Camp Guernsey are excluded for military-related operations and/or training, including controlled burns, when approved by appropriate Wyoming National Guard Officials.
- (ix) The Town of Wheatland is excluded to burn their wood refuse pile.

- (x) Should weather conditions improve as the result of significant moisture and forecasted reduced wind, lower temperatures, and higher humidity, fire department chiefs, with the concurrence of the county fire warden, may approve limited burning. Any request for limited burning will be denied by the department chief and fire warden if the National Weather Service has forecast a fire weather watch or temperatures exceeding 80°F and below 20% humidity for a 72-hour period following the burn date. The landowner will be responsible for all costs associated with suppression.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the penalties, pursuant to W.S. §35-9-304, a \$100.00 fine, thirty (30) days in the Platte County Jail, or both, may be imposed for violation of the Resolution. The Platte County Fire Warden shall promptly notify the Board of Platte County Commissioners when the conditions are mitigated, and upon such notice the closing may be modified.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Platte County Commissioners requests the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and the Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources to adopt the measures outlined in this resolution to reduce the risk of wildland fires on lands they manage in the county. To further reduce the risk of man-made fire starts, the Board of Platte County Commissioners request that the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources prohibit the use of wood-burning campfires on lands they manage in the county for the period of this partial closure.


Notice of fire closure shall be transmitted to the Wyoming State Forester, 5500 Bishop Blvd, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002-0060.

Given our hand and seal this 4th day of June 2024.

**PLATTE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**



Steve Shockley, Chairman



Ian Jolovich, Commissioner



Kayla Mantle, Commissioner

**Platte County
Fire Warden**



Aaron Clark, County Fire Warden



ATTEST:



Malcolm Ervin, County Clerk