

Board of County Commissioners

Staff Report

Matters from Staff Agenda item # 12

Meeting Date: 08/02/2016

Presenter: Willy Watsabaugh

Submitting Dept: JH Fire/EMS

Subject: Partial Fire & Burning Restriction

Statement / Purpose: Enter into a partial fire restriction based on increased fire danger, reduced resources available, and all Federal Cooperators entering into the same restriction.

Background / Description (Pros & Cons):

Pros: Fire Danger is Very High and potential for fire starts has increased significantly.
Proactive step to reduce risk of fire starts.

Con: Contactors/homebuilders will not be able to burn scrap building materials.
Additional burden on businesses that use open fire.

Statement of Strategic Intent addressed by this item (Identify BCC goals accomplished/addressed):

Organizational Excellence – Collaborative with federal partners.

Environmental Stewardship – Protecting our Landscape.

Vibrant Community – Provide service to ensure personal & public safety.

Economic Sustainability – Deliver efficient government services to ensure safety and welfare of residents and visitors.

Attachments: State of Wyoming partial burn restriction documents

Fiscal Impact: No Fiscal Impact

Staff Impact: Additional public service, outreach, and education regarding fire restriction.
More calls for service to investigate inappropriate burning.
Additional calls for Law enforcement support for citations.

Legal Review: Language was forwarded to The Teton County Attorney, Keith Gingery on submittal of staff report. Review pending.

Recommendation: Staff recommends closure based on increased fire danger and the fact the federal agencies are moving into the same closure.

Suggested Motion: Move to adopt partial fire restriction as presented, effective Wednesday, August 3rd. 2016, and remain in place until fire conditions change.

RESOLUTION # ____

PARTIAL FIRE CLOSURE FOR UNINCORPORATED AREA OF TETON COUNTY PROHIBITING
OPEN FIRES

WHEREAS, Wyoming Statute §35-9-301 allows upon the recommendation of the County Fire Warden for the Board of County Commissioners to prohibit open fire in the unincorporated areas of Teton County for such period of time as the board of county commissioners may deem necessary and proper; and

WHEREAS, the County Fire Warden has advised that the fire danger in the unincorporated area of Teton County is due to the drought and excessive amount of inflammable material; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the governing body of the County of Teton, open fires are prohibited in the unincorporated areas of Teton County until further notice; and

IT IS FURTHER OREDERED, that the following exceptions shall apply:

1. Trash or refuse fires are permitted between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., inside containers with maximum ¼ inch screen spark arresters and located within a cleared area ten feet in radius are present when burning is occurring.
2. Camp fires contained within an established fire ring at an established campground are permitted.
3. Charcoal fires within enclosed grills are permitted.
4. Use of acetylene cutting torches or electric arc welders in cleared areas ten feet in radius are permitted.
5. Propane or open fire branding activities in cleared areas ten feet in radius are permitted.
6. Use of home fire pits and bowls are permitted, so long as used with maximum ¼ inch screen spark arresters and are present when burning is occurring.
7. Current Teton County Board of County Commissioners Resolution 13-027, banning fireworks pursuant to W.S. §35-10-202 remains in effect.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that violation of this resolution constitutes a misdemeanor under Wyoming Statute §35-9-304 which provides for a \$100 fine or imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed 30 days or both the fine and imprisonment; and

DATED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2016.

Barbara Allen, Chair
Teton County Board of County Commissioners

Attest: _____
Sherry Daigle, Teton County Clerk