



Date: September 16, 2004
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Fire Restrictions Rescinded in Portions of South Central Montana

Stage 1 fire restrictions in Carbon, Musselshell and Stillwater counties will be lifted at 12:01 a.m. on September 17 due to additional rainfall, higher humidity and cooler temperatures. Yellowstone County lifted restrictions September 8. However, Sweet Grass and Treasure counties remain under Stage 1 restrictions, which allow campfires only in developed recreation sites, and smoking only in areas cleared of flammable materials.

Restrictions were placed on private, state and Bureau of Land Management lands in these counties this summer to help prevent human-caused wildland fires.

Although restrictions have been rescinded in many areas, fire danger persists.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. **Anyone who causes a wildland fire intentionally or through negligence may be held accountable for damage and suppression costs.**

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Even in areas not under restrictions, a permit is required for any open burning other than campfires. Additional restrictions may also exist in certain areas. Before burning such things as slash piles, ditches, or fields, please contact your local fire department or sheriff's office for more information and to obtain any necessary permits.

For more information about fire prevention, please contact the Custer National Forest at 406-657-6200; Bureau of Land Management at 406-896-5013; Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation at 406-247-4400; Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks at 406-247-2940; Carbon County at 406-446-1595; Stillwater County at 406-321-0204; Sweet Grass County at 406-932-5143; or your local fire department or sheriff's office.

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