

RESOLUTION NO. 23-20

RESOLUTION PLACING **PARTIAL FIRE** CLOSURE RESTRICTIONS ON
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING, DUE TO EXTREME FIRE DANGER

WHEREAS, the Natrona County Fire Warden, after consultation with the Natrona County Fire District, the Casper Mountain Fire District, and the Bureau of Land Management have agreed to recommended the **partial closing** of all areas within the boundaries of Natrona County, Wyoming, to open burning and other fire related activities on all private and county lands in Natrona County; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management has imposed a fire closure resolution on BLM lands in Natrona County, Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, Natrona County is currently approaching drought conditions and fire danger is extremely high; and

WHEREAS, W.S. §§ 35-9-301 and 302 provide authority to the Board of County Commissioners in the State of Wyoming, if certain conditions are met, to "...close the area to any form of use by the public or may limit such use upon the recommendation of the county fire warden, including prohibition of any type of open fire...for such period of time as the board of county commissioners may deem necessary and proper;" and

WHEREAS, Natrona County has the inherent power and authority to regulate, limit and prohibit activities and uses of lands and premises owned by Natrona County, Wyoming, or in which Natrona County holds a legal interest; and

WHEREAS, based upon the recommendation of the Natrona County Fire Warden, and the information provided by him to this Board of County Commissioners, it is deemed necessary and proper to prohibit and limit the use of open fires and incendiary devices in Natrona County, Wyoming, for so long as high fire danger conditions continue to exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Natrona County, Wyoming, that effective commencing **July 1, 2020**, the open burning and other fire related activities on all private, county, and, to the extent not inconsistent with other closure orders such as State or Federal, lands in Natrona County, Wyoming, is hereby placed under restriction as follows:

1. Trash and refuse is to be burned only in containers provided with spark arrestors in a 10 foot cleared area between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. only in areas approved for this type of burning.

2. Wood fires must be contained in established fire rings. Building or using any open fire or camp fire, except within fire rings or grates at developed campgrounds, or within fully enclosed stoves grills or in stoves using pressurized liquid gas is prohibited.
3. Charcoal fires within enclosed grills are permitted; however, the discarding of the hot coals in a manner that will cause an ignition of a fire is prohibited.
4. No person shall throw or drop any lighted match, cigar, cigarette or other burning substance in combustible material (weeds or brush) or in the close proximity of combustible materials.
5. No smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area of least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.
6. Discharging and detonation of fireworks, explosives requiring fuses blasting caps or exploding targets are prohibited without an approved permit.
7. No acetylene cutting torches or electric arc welding except in areas devoid of all vegetation in a ten foot area.
8. No propane or open fire branding activities except in corral areas in ranch complexes considered to be improved and cleared of all vegetation matter.
9. No fire or open flame allowed in unimproved areas.
10. No operation of chainsaws without a properly installed USDA or SAE approved spark arrestor and either a 5lb. or larger dry chemical fire extinguisher or an adequate supply of water and a shovel in case of a fire. These fire tools may be kept with the operator's gas supply, but must be available in the immediate vicinity of the chainsaw operations.
11. There will be no slash pile burning on Casper Mountain. Landowners on Casper Mountain with slash pile cleanup can take their slash to Tower Hill, which has been designated for receipt and disposal of slash materials.
12. Additional restrictions on allowed uses, in particular areas, may be imposed due to adverse weather, range and fuel conditions (i.e. Red Flag Days), at the discretion and advice of the County Fire Warden, Natrona County Fire District and Casper Mountain Fire District.

13. Religious organizations or entities seeking an exemption from the fire restrictions for religious ceremonies must make application to the County Fire Warden for the exemption and provide details as to the nature of the ceremony and proposed safety precautions to minimize the risk of fire danger.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the penalties provided in W.S. § 35-9-304 may be improved for violations of this resolution, to wit: A fine not to exceed One Hundred Dollars (\$100) or imprisonment in the Natrona County Jail not to exceed thirty (30) days, or both such fine and imprisonment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Natrona County Fire Warden shall notify the Wyoming State Forester at 2211 Dey Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82002, of the partial closure and restrictions provided in this resolution as well as any and all subsequent modifications hereto and/or rescission hereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this fire closure shall stay in effect until further notice from the Natrona County Fire Warden.

DATED this 30th day of June 2020.

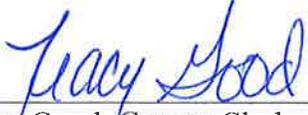
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING

ATTEST:





Rob Hendry, Chairman



Tracy Good, County Clerk

**My term of office expires
January 3, 2023**