

ROUTT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Timothy V. Corrigan
District I

Timothy Redmond
District II

M. Elizabeth Melton
District III

Special Meeting

September 7, 2022

Times listed on the agenda are approximations and may be longer or shorter, or being earlier than scheduled, with no notice. Agendas are subject to change 24 hours before the meeting start time. To ensure you have the most up-to-date information, please check the agenda after 24 hours of its start time.

If you are joining the meeting for a specific item, please join 10 minutes before the item to ensure you are present for the beginning of the item.

All regular meetings are open to the public unless otherwise noted. All meetings will be held in the Routt County Historic Courthouse - 522 Lincoln Avenue, Hearing Room, Steamboat Springs - or otherwise noted.

Join our meeting via our [Zoom Link](#).

To join by telephone dial 1-346-248-7799

Webinar ID: 851 5180 1592 Password: 444052

1. 2:30 P.M. CALL TO ORDER
2. 2:30 P.M. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
David DeMorat, Emergency Operations Director
 - A. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR TO SIGN A DECLARATION ENACTING A STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTION

Documents:

BCC AGENDA COMMUNICATION FORM RE STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS - SEP 2022.PDF
2022 FIRE RESTRICTION DECLARATION - STAGE 1 09-06-2022.PDF

3. 2:45 P.M. MEETING ADJOURNED

All programs, services and activities of Routt County are operated in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need a special accommodation as a result of a disability, please call the Commissioners Office at (970) 879-0108 to assure that we can meet your needs. Please notify us of your request as soon as possible prior to the scheduled event. Routt County uses the Relay Colorado service. Dial 711 or TDD (970) 870-5444.

ROUTT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA COMMUNICATION FORM

ITEM DATE: Sep 07, 2022	ITEM TIME: 2:30 p.m.
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FROM:	Mo DeMorat, Emergency Operations Director
TODAY'S DATE:	Sep 6, 2022
AGENDA TITLE:	APPROVE STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTION FOR UNINCORPORATED AND STATE LANDS WITHIN ROUTT COUNTY

CHECK ONE THAT APPLIES TO YOUR ITEM:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION ITEM	
<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECTION	
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	

I. DESCRIBE THE REQUEST OR ISSUE:
 Consideration to approve and authorization of the Chair's signature on a Declaration enacting Stage 1 Fire Restriction pursuant to Ordinance No. 2013-002 for unincorporated and state lands within Routt County

II. RECOMMENDED ACTION:
 Consideration to approve and authorization of the Chair's signature on a Declaration enacting Stage 1 Fire Restriction pursuant to Ordinance No. 2013-002 for unincorporated and state lands within Routt County

III. DESCRIBE FISCAL IMPACTS (VARIATION TO BUDGET):
PROPOSED REVENUE: None
PROPOSED EXPENDITURE: None
FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

IV. IMPACTS OF A REGIONAL NATURE OR ON OTHER JURISDICTIONS (IDENTIFY ANY COMMUNICATIONS ON THIS ITEM):
 The Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit had a conference call on Tuesday, Sep 6, 2022, with county and multiple agency representatives to review current fire conditions and the need to move to Stage 1 Fire Restrictions. North Routt FPD, Oak Creek FPD, Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue, Routt County Sheriff's Office, and OEM recommended county-wide Stage 1 fire restrictions. Federal landowners within these counties will also begin Stage 1 fire restrictions.

ROUTT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA COMMUNICATION FORM

V. BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

After the 2012 wildland fire season it was apparent that Ordinance 99-1 did not recognize the authority of the District Fire Chiefs by Title 32 and Senate Bill 20 within their Fire Protection Districts.

Ordinance No. 2013-002 recognizes their authority in their Fire Protection District by allowing the District Chief to enforce fire restrictions on open burning during periods of high fire danger within their district and was adopted by the County Commissioners on April 2, 2013.

The wildfire hazard data provided on Mon, Sep 5, triggered five of the eight climatological factors for Routt County: 1,000 hour fuel moistures less than 9% below 8,000 feet or less than 12% above 8,000 feet; fuels are near critical or at critical levels; current adjective rating is High or Higher (the zones within Routt County are Very High or Extreme); drought indicators; and adverse fire weather is predicted to continue. The Energy Release Component (ERC) is also above the 90th percentile. Per the fire management plan, counties should consider Stage 1 restrictions once four of the factors are met. Stage 2 restrictions are considered once five factors are met and the County is already in Stage 1 restrictions.

Prior to the conference call, OEM spoke to three of the five FPDs in the County (Steamboat Springs, Oak Creek, and North Routt), and these FPDs all agreed that Stage 1 fire restrictions were warranted. During the conference call, Jackson and Grand Counties indicated that they would enter Stage 1 restrictions on Thursday, Sep 8. Federal landowners within these Counties, and Routt County, indicated that they would begin Stage 1 fire restrictions along with the Counties. Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties, and the federal landowners within those Counties, will remain out of fire restrictions at this time.

VI. LEGAL ISSUES:

None

VII. CONFLICTS OR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

None

VIII. SUMMARY AND OTHER OPTIONS:

Wildfire conditions in Routt County have steadily become more hazardous over the last several weeks, primarily due to excessive heat, little to no precipitation, and low relative humidity. No precipitation is forecasted for the remainder of the week. An alternative option is to wait another week to see if the conditions improve.



THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF ROUTT, COLORADO

DECLARATION

Pursuant to Ordinance No. 2013-002, an ordinance to restrict fires in unincorporated portions of Routt County during periods of high fire danger, the Board of County Commissioners hereby declares a countywide Stage 1 Fire Restriction. This declaration shall be effective at 0:01 a.m. on Thursday, September 8, 2022, and will remain in force until rescinded.

The fire restriction applies to all private and state lands outside of municipal boundaries.

STAGE 1 RESTRICTION:

The following acts are prohibited on all private and state owned lands outside of municipal boundaries. This does not affect federal lands within Routt County.

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using any fire to burn trash, debris, fence rows, irrigation ditches or vegetation, any campfire, warming fire, charcoal grill, except in designated campgrounds, picnic areas or developed recreational sites.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreational site, or while stopped in an area of at least (3) feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.
3. Operating a chainsaw without a USDA or SAE approved spark arresting device (muffler) properly installed and in effective working order, and a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher of not less than eight (8) ounce capacity by weight, and one (1) round pointed shovel with an overall length of at least 36 inches. The extinguisher will be with the chainsaw operator. The shovel may be kept with the fueling supplies but readily available for quick use.
4. Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame; except within an area that is barren or cleared of all flammable material at least 10 feet on all sides from the equipment.
5. Using explosives requiring fuses or blasting caps.

Exemptions from Stage 1 Restriction:

1. Persons with a valid written permit which specifically authorizes the prohibited act: (a) from the fire protection district chief if subject land is within a fire protection district; (b) or Routt County Emergency Operations Director after consultation with the Routt County Sheriff if subject land is not within a fire protection district.
2. Any federal, state or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an actual duty.
3. Any fires contained within stoves, fireplaces within buildings, charcoal grill fires, recreational fires at private residences with valid permit from district chief, and permanent fire pits or fire grates in developed picnic grounds and campgrounds.
4. Burning of irrigation ditches located within and completely surrounded by irrigated farm lands where such burning is necessary for crop survival with proper permit from: (a) fire protection district chief if subject land is within a fire protection district; (b) or Routt County Emergency Operations Director after consultation with the Routt County Sheriff if subject land is not within a fire protection district.
5. Hot air balloon activities and the use of UL approved liquid-fueled or gas fueled "Camp Fire in a Can."
6. Campfires or bonfires required in religious ceremonies where a specific written permit has been granted in advance by: (a) the fire protection district chief if subject land is within a fire protection district; or (b) the Routt County Emergency Operations Director after consultation with the Routt County Sheriff if subject land is not within a fire protection district.

Fine Schedule and Penalty Assessment Procedure:

Any person who violates this order commits a class 2 petty offense and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than six hundred dollars (\$600) for each separate offense. However, the following fine schedule shall apply:

First Offense	Not more than \$100
Second Offense	Not more than \$200
Third or Subsequent Offense	Maximum fine permitted by law – \$1,000 as of March 31, 2013

The penalty assessment procedure provided for in Section §16-2-201, C.R.S. may be followed by any law enforcement officer issuing a citation or making an arrest for a violation of this ordinance.

ORDERED this 7th day of September 2022.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF ROUTT, COLORADO

By: _____
M. Elizabeth Melton, Chair

ATTEST:

By: _____
Jenny Thomas, Clerk & Recorder