

RESOLUTION 22 - 2026

FERGUS COUNTY STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

WHEREAS, the Fergus County Fire Warden and Deputy Fire Warden provided an update on fire conditions within the county to the Board of County Commissioners on Monday, August 10, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Fergus County Fire Warden and Deputy Fire Warden, in consultation with Fergus County Rural Fire Chiefs, have determined that conditions have worsened due to prolonged high temperatures and a lack of moisture in the months of July and August, resulting in dry fuel conditions, poor soil moisture, and low water supplies, which has contributed to a HIGH wildland fire danger; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners wants to establish public awareness of fire danger in Fergus County and aid in the prevention of rural wildland fires; and

WHEREAS, neighboring counties and Federal Agencies have also instituted Stage 1 Fire Restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the public is asked to honor the Stage 1 Fire Restrictions to decrease the chance of human-caused fires and avoid further resource and property damage, as well as additional strains on fire-fighting personnel, equipment, and budgets;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Fergus County, Montana, that Stage 1 Fire Restrictions are in effect for all private lands not under the jurisdiction of municipalities, or State or Federal agencies within Fergus County, due to HIGH wildland fire danger; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all activities that might potentially cause a fire shall cease immediately and be prohibited until further notice. Activities that may cause a fire include, but are not limited to:

1. **Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire** unless noted in the exemptions below.
2. **Smoking outdoors**, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three (3) feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

EXEMPTIONS:

- A. Persons with a written permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act.
- B. Persons using a device solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off. Such devices can only be used in an area that is barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding flammable materials within three (3) feet of the device.
- C. Persons conducting activities in designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice.
- D. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
- E. All land within a city boundary is exempted.

F. Campfires built within established fire rings in developed campgrounds listed in Appendix H (attachment) of the Lewistown Area Fire Restriction Plan (specifically Kipp Recreation Area and Crystal Lake Campground) are permitted.

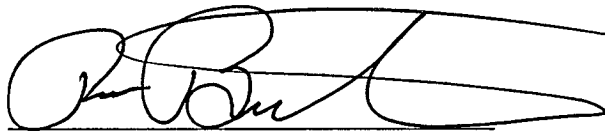
AN EXEMPTION DOES NOT ABSOLVE AN INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION FROM LIABILITY OR RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY FIRE STARTED BY THE EXEMPTED ACTIVITY.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall become effective at **12:00 A.M. on Saturday, August 29, 2026**, and shall remain in effect until such time as it may be amended or rescinded by the Board of Fergus County Commissioners.

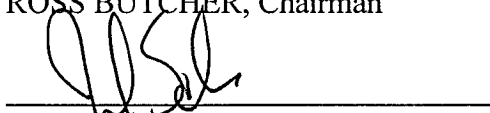
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Fergus County, Montana, this 19th day of August 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS FERGUS
COUNTY, MONTANA

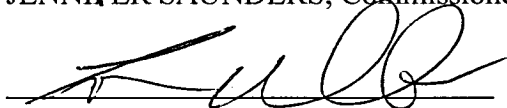
ATTEST:



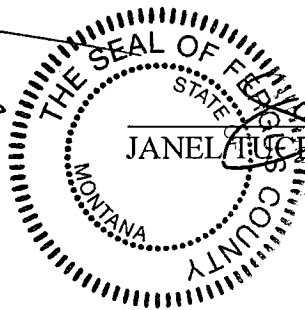
ROSS BUTCHER, Chairman



JENNIFER SAUNDERS, Commissioner



TRAVIS WILLSON, Commissioner



JANEL TUCEK, Clerk & Recorder

Appendix H-Campgrounds/Site

YES-Campfires are **approved** during Stage I Restrictions
 NO-Campfire are **NOT approved** during Stage I Restrictions

Fergus County:

Yes	No	Campground/Site	Ownership	Location
X		Kipp Recreation Area	BLM	47.6221N X 108.6735W
X		Crystal Lake Campground	USFS-HLF	46.7951N X 109.5099W
	X	East Fork Reservoir	City of Lewistown	46.9817N X 109.2812W
	X	Limekiln Trailhead	BLM	47.1365N X 109.3522W
	X	Collar Peak Trailhead	BLM	47.2085N X 109.2148W
	X	Woodhawk (upper)	BLM	47.7571N X 108.9216W
	X	Woodhawk (lower)	BLM	47.7412N X 108.949W
	X	McGarry Bar	BLM	47.7472N X 109.3587W