



Fire Restrictions and Closures August Roundup Notes

August 14 @ 0900 Mountain Time 1-888-858-2144 Passcode: 3599209#
Area Restrictions and Media Coordinators – Your Area must be represented; Agency Representatives

Please read and review: Firerestriction.us 08/02/2013 Reference Guide
http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/Restrictions_and_Closures.htm

Objectives:

- Update on Restrictions and Closures Toolbox
- Update on Firerestrictions.us: access, public views, reference guide, standard formatting
- How to look at and convey whole vs. partial area restrictions: decision making, public understanding, conveying information
- Update on status of Closures and Restrictions Working Groups
- Updates from your Area: status of your area plans, what you are working on, issues you are facing, who are your restrictions/media coordinators and alternates, status of your area plans, status of identifying permanent restrictions and management unit contacts, questions you have regarding the draft reference guide
- Assessment of needs: what your Area needs from others

Participants: listed below in Agenda; also attending - Crystal Beckman (MDNRC), Cindy Super (MDNRC), Kristen Lenhardt (BLM)

Agenda

<p>Restrictions and Closures Information - NRCG Website, NRCC Link</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRCG Bulletin Board: Restrictions and Closures Toolbox http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/index.html • Toolbox Contents: Procedures and Memo, Area Plan, Website Info, Training, Conference Call Notes, Products, Publications • Thank you Curtis for setting up the toolbox • Action Item: Need: Working group products, Restriction Area Plans (if you don't want numbers posted, remove those sections before you send); Restriction products; send to Cathy • NRCC Bulletin Board: Restrictions and Closure link to Firerestrictions.us http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/ 	<p>Cathy Scofield</p>
<p>Firerestrictions.us: Access, Public View, Using the Website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access: Assigned Roles, Restriction Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Database has been cleaned up to reflect current users ○ Users have been assigned a role (restrictions or media coordinator) and a restriction area ○ If you have a person that needs access, let Curtis know • Public View: Hotlinks on the right side of the page, when selecting any hotlink the All States navigation bar appears <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Restrictions Stages: different definitions around the country, can select the Northern Rockies Area (now identifies which states), definition for the stage selected is given ○ How to Use This Map: States are divided into areas, when a 	<p>Curtis Phelps Cathy Scofield</p>

<p>unit in a county is in fire restrictions/closures the county will be shaded, the highest level of restrictions/closure take precedence for shading, for specific information select the county and read the text below the map</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RSS (Rich Site Summary) Feed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Web feed format that a user subscribes to for information ▪ Can subscribe at the national, state, area, or management unit level ▪ Feeds can be sent to email boxes, phones, or other web based applications ○ Feedback: User can send a message, goes to programmer, programmer send to the respective area ○ About: Disclaimer, limitations of information (may not include municipalities, cities, towns), not real time information, does not include wildfire information ○ Firerestrictions.us: At the top of every page; is a hotlink back to the home page ○ If you are having problems using the website, try Mozilla Firefox vs. Internet Explorer ● Usage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Folks are going to site; Cathy gets a national weekly report ○ Period of Aug. 4-10: 2485 visitors, 72.56% new visits, visitors – Missoula 179, Helena 107, Billings 72, 2.43 pages/visit, 1.42 (min) average visit duration ○ Period of July 28 – Aug. 3: 3519 visitors, 72.46% new visits, visitors – Missoula 278, Helena 166, Billings 71, 2.45 pages/visit, 1.40 (min) average visit duration ● Reference Guide – 08/02/2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Detailed step by step, how to guide ○ Each section is independent, e.g. if you are only interested in adding press release info, it will take you through each step ○ Comments, changes, tips, additions are welcome; send to Cathy 	
<p>Standard Formatting for Description Boxes (Website)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reference guide has standard formatting requirements for the adding restriction, upcoming restriction, press release, and area info sections ● Adding Restriction – Reference Guide page 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Currently there is not the ability to upload a document into a description box (info resides on Firerestrictions.us) vs. linking to an outside website. Action Item: Work with the programmer to see if this is an option. ○ Populating info into a Management Unit description box currently can only be done when a restriction is added. Action Item: Will work with the programmer to see if 	Cathy Scofield

<p>information can be preloaded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming Restrictions – Reference Guide page 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use the upcoming restrictions feature on the website when decisions have been made. ○ If a management unit is going to allow exemptions, note that in your upcoming restriction as well e.g. campfires will be allowed in XYZ campground. Intent is to let the public know what decisions we have made so they can plan. • Restrictions Area Page <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Press Release – Reference Guide page 17 ○ Area Information – Reference Guide page 23 	
<p>Whole Area vs. Partial Area Restrictions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Whole process is intended to get everyone to talk (communication), but all agencies still need to maintain their identity; can't force an agency to do something ○ Encourage those that don't need restrictions to not go into restrictions • Impacting Public and User <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Restrictions are a tool to protect public lands (who our users own) ○ Not a convenience for the Agencies, dilutes the effect of restrictions when we really need them; make sure you have exhausted all your prevention efforts before you implement restrictions • Public Understanding – what and where <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decision: Partial Restrictions: Use the Area and Press Release sections on the website to convey where there are NOT restrictions ○ Make sure info conveyed in news release and website is not too general e.g. A and B counties have implemented Stage I fire restrictions – does that mean County jurisdictional lands only, all Agencies, etc.? ○ Make sure info conveyed is accurate across all Agencies. For example, the Forest Service does not consider exploding targets to be a pyrotechnic device per the Code of Federal Regulation. ○ Decision: Designated, Developed, Improved: DO NOT use these words; describe what you mean e.g. campfires are allowed at the XYZ campground in rings that are concrete, metal culvert, or iron grate. 	<p>Mike Dannenberg</p>
<p>Restrictions and Closure Working Group Updates (5 min each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As you come up with ideas, discover things that need to be discussed, identify issues; if it pertains to one of the working group topics, send the lead a note, with a cc: to Cathy • If it is something else, send it to Cathy 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will be used as a starting point for an AAR <p>Procedures (Bruce Suenram) Restrictions Area (Rick Floch) Training (Terina Goicoechea) Products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk guide comments have been incorporated, will be posted to the restrictions toolbox; any comments send to Carmen Thomason and/or Julie Shea As products are developed ensure they can be replicated in other Areas <p>Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference guide completed System changes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under Restrictions Stage Definitions: NR Area now identifies the states, Navigation Button Added: All States About Button: Navigation Button added: All States 	<p><i>Completed</i> Not on Call <i>Completed</i> Carmen Thomason</p> <p>Cathy Scofield</p>
<p>Area Updates and Needs Be prepared to cover the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What you are working on Issues you are facing Status of your area plans to be posted Restrictions and Media Coordinators and Alts for your Area Status of identifying permanent restrictions and management unit contacts What your Area Needs from others <p>ID: Clearwater/Panhandle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area Plans are posted Calls last couple of week; no restrictions imminent, however having discussions within the Clearwater Area <p>Wilderness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area Plan is posted <p>MT: Billings/Miles City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly/biweekly calls; getting good participation Stage I restrictions across some of the Billings Area <p>Bozeman Dillon Great Falls, Helena</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great Falls: weekly calls, 0900 Wednesday Great Falls: transition between coordinators completed; plan being developed Helena: plan almost completed <p>Kalispell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working on finalizing plan 	<p>Ken Ockfen</p> <p>Not on Call</p> <p>Carmen Thomason</p> <p>Not on Call Not on Call Marvin Carpenter</p> <p>Manny Mendoza</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to work on refining graphical information e.g. Flathead Co. is not in restrictions, but a piece of the Lolo National Forest, Plains Ranger District is located in Flathead Co and has Stage I restrictions <p>Lewistown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good participation on weekly calls <p>Missoula</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Plan is posted • Stage I restrictions area wide; once you have gone in it is hard to deal with the public when you get short breaks of changed weather conditions • Developing a GIS restrictions map showing agency specific locations that are in restrictions. Has been hard to get the Agencies to get their specific shape files displaying their Area of responsibility • Map will be made available in a PDF format – target Front Liners, public; can drill down to a scale (section) that is useful <p>Miles City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Billings Area <p>ND:</p> <p>SD:</p>	<p>Linda Birdwell</p> <p>CJ Johnson</p> <p>Carmen Thomason</p> <p>Not on Call</p> <p>Not on Call</p>
<p>SC MT Fire Prevention Team – Restriction Products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographic prevention team working for Agencies in SC MT • Products: restrictions and prevention; Keep Montana Green is posting products, go to http://keepgreen.org/prevention-material/ • Goals: provide public with information conduits (where they can find information, and develop products that can be replicated in other Areas • CJ Johnson and Crystal Beckman are contacts. If you need support and/or products for your Area, let them know. • Vehicle Magnets: Main depicts firerestrictions.us; can order additional individual magnets reflecting the restrictions stages, burn bans, and red flag • Once ordering info is available, Cathy will send out; have 7 days to order • Restrictions art work and other products produced by the team will be posted on the restrictions toolbox 	<p>CJ Johnson, Cathy Scofield</p>
<p>Follow up Items from July Call</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website: Contact Information, Permanent Restrictions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ See User Reference Guide for standard formatting under the sections: Upcoming and Adding Restrictions, Press Release, and Area Information • Training Webinar: Website, Coordinators, Managers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reference guide has detailed step by step instructions ○ Conference calls has addressed common issues and 	<p>Cathy Scofield</p>

<p>interpretations of the Restrictions and Closures Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identified need for training (website, coordinators, managers); defer training until winter or spring 	
<p>Touching Base During Fire Season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda shows Area restriction call times • Geographic Restrictions Call: Wed 0900 MDT when activity picks up • Next Call: Sept. 11th @ 1000 MDT; touch base, if have a lot of restrictions prior to that may schedule a call earlier 	Cathy Scofield