



## Fire Restrictions and Closures July Roundup Notes

**July 17th @ 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 Draft Reference Guide

### Objectives:

- Restrictions and Closures Information: Central Site
- Firerestrictions.us: access, using the site, Area Information
- Coordination: internal, media, public, roles and responsibilities
- 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

### Agenda

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| <p><b>Restrictions and Closures Information - NRCG Website</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosted on NRCG website, in the process of building</li> <li>• Need to collect info first (what we want/have) before we have discussions about using Firerestrictions.us</li> <li>• Have: Procedures, Training Powerpoint, Missoula(want numbers posted?), Clearwater, Panhandle and Wilderness Area Plans</li> <li>• <b>Action Item:</b> Need: Working group products, Restriction Area Plans (if you don't want numbers posted, remove those sections before you send); send to Cathy</li> </ul>  | <p>Cathy Scofield</p>                   |
| <p><b>Firerestrictions.us: Access, Reference Guide, Area Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Decision:</b> Who will be given access to input information: restrictions and media coordinators and alternates; need a coordinated effort, can't have everyone doing their own thing; system was not built to give access only to a specific management unit</li> <li>• Need to remember the 2000 fire season: lack of coordination, no common database for sharing information. Geographic agency administrators said we would not go thru a disjointed, uncoordinated effort ever again.</li> <li>• <b>Action Item:</b> Need the current information from all areas (be used to identify who access will be given to); Cathy will send out what she has to date. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Clearwater, Panhandle, Wilderness, Miles City Areas: no alternatives identified for restrictions and/or media coordinator</li> <li>○ Bozeman, North Dakota, NW South Dakota: need to verify if information is correct</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p>Cathy Scofield<br/>Curtis Phelps</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Decision:</b> Requests for user access: must be sent to Cathy Scofield, <a href="mailto:cscofield@fs.fed.us">cscofield@fs.fed.us</a> and Curtis Phelps, <a href="mailto:clphelps@fs.fed.us">clphelps@fs.fed.us</a> (we need to assign restriction area); if you need to add people throughout the season, we can do that.</li> <li>• Requests that the programmer gets from the “Sign Up or Feedback” will be sent to Cathy and Curtis.</li> <li>• <b>Action Item:</b> Using the website: reference guide is being developed (draft was sent out with agenda); a future date and time (within next 2 weeks) will be selected for webinar training (for new users, refresher for others); webinar will be recorded and posted.</li> <li>• Reference Guide: work in progress; expand on what type of text should be in the description boxes, will be adding the press release and area information sections; provide feedback to Curtis.</li> <li>• Problems with the website, let Curtis know and he can help trouble shoot.</li> <li>• If Internet Explorer is slow, try using FireFox.</li> <li>• <b>Action Item:</b> Make sure the Area Information and Press Release Information is current. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Billings, Lewistown, Miles City: 4<sup>th</sup> of July Info</li> <li>○ Helena: Fall info</li> <li>○ Missoula: Fall info: Tribe is considering permanent restriction</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Use the Area Information to post a prevention message related to the trends in your area, specific information you want public to know, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dillon, Lewistown: partners in restrictions area</li> <li>○ Missoula: pending permanent restriction</li> <li>○ Other areas: none</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |   |
| <p><b>Coordination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination is the driving force to where we are today: 2000 fire season, lack of coordination.</li> <li>• Coordination includes across Areas, internal with partners, and media</li> <li>• Internal Area coordination, example from Lewistown Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Have lead Agency Administrator – Clive Rooney</li> <li>○ Have 5 year Restrictions Area plan, annually update contacts</li> <li>○ Preseason meeting/call first week in June: discuss process</li> <li>○ Weekly calls @ first of July and weekly through fire season on Mondays</li> <li>○ Standard format for call; - objective complete call in 15 min: start with NWS (past and future weather), facilitated discussion on fire activity, end with a discussion on need for restrictions - people on the call have the authority to make a restrictions decision</li> <li>○ Participants: Co. government, if Co is not on the call DNRC follows up after the call; tribal government, if not on the call</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  | <p>Mike Dannenberg<br/>Clive Rooney</p> |

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| <p>restrictions coordinator follows up after the call; federal agencies (COE, Bureau of Rec when activity picks up), State - DNRC, Fish Wildlife and Parks, DES.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Takes the agency administrators to get their agency involved and participating, after that the group then becomes self - sustaining.</li> <li>○ Implementing: put out notes, have a common date and time to implement (usually Friday @ 0001), paper work has to be completed, information to media by COB Tuesday to get into Wed paper.</li> <li>○ Area of implementation is important. Important all agencies are implementing tougher within an area and all understand. Can separate logical geographic breaks, like CMR (whole restrictions area does not need to be under restrictions). Little chunks that cannot be understood by the public (mixed ownership) - all agencies need to be implementing the same type of restrictions for that area.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Action Item:</b> Conference Call Notes: send to other Area coordinators and Agency representatives.</li> <li>● Media: press releases need to be coordinated; needs to come from the Area Restrictions group with all agencies listed under the release, not from a single agency.</li> <li>● Restrictions Coordinator’s job is to coordinate actions; Lead Agency Administrator is to coordinate management (leadership) across agencies.</li> <li>● <b>Decision:</b> Sharing Info with the Public: post upcoming restrictions; need to use feature on the website, need to tell public what has been decided when decisions are made.</li> <li>● <b>Action Item:</b> Training needs: roles and responsibilities, process, understanding stages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A webinar will be conducted on process, roles and responsibilities, etc. utilizing the training powerpoint that was developed. Time and date will be sent out later, possibly in the next 2-3 weeks. Webinar will be recorded and posted.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Remember:</b> Restrictions should never be considered the prevention program. Restrictions are a result of exhausting all prevention opportunities and there are still problems.</li> </ul> |  |
| <p><b>Restrictions and Closure Working Group Updates (5 min each)</b></p> <p><b>Procedures</b></p> <p><b>Restrictions Area</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Not on call</li> </ul> <p><b>Training</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● If there is a need for the powerpoint before it is posted, let Terina or Cathy know.</li> </ul> <p><b>Products</b></p>   | <p><i>Completed</i></p> <p>Not on Call</p> <p>Terina Goicoechea</p> <p>Carmen Thomason</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalizing desk guide; send out to whole group when done, will be posted on NRCG website.</li> </ul> <p><b>Systems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Priority: user access, reference guide, webinar on how to use the system.</li> </ul>  | Cathy Scofield   |
| <p><b>Area Updates and Needs</b><br/>Be prepared to cover the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What you are working on</li> <li>Issues you are facing</li> <li>Status of your area plans</li> <li>Restrictions and Media Coordinators and Alts for your Area</li> <li>Status of identifying permanent restrictions and management unit contacts</li> <li>What your Area Needs from others</li> </ul> <p><b>ID: Clearwater/Panhandle/Wilderness</b></p> <p><b>MT: Billings, Miles City, SD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have established calls (Billings, Miles City)</li> <li>Billings: Dorothy and Carmen are Co Leads; will change 4<sup>th</sup> of July new release on website</li> <li>Permanent restrictions and contacts for each management unit are being gathered.</li> <li>Good coordination within and across restrictions areas</li> <li>NWS prepares a YouTube video on conditions prior to call, if folks miss the call they can still see what the trends are</li> </ul> <p>Bozeman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Call Monday mornings; trying to work out coordination issues</li> <li>Working on identifying a media coordinator</li> <li>Kerry O'Connell - Area Restrictions Coordinator.</li> </ul> <p>Dillon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul> <p>Great Falls, Helena</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restrictions Coordinator for both Areas: Marvin Carpenter</li> <li>Transitioning from Dave Cunningham (Great Falls) to Marvin</li> </ul> <p>Kalispell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalizing plan</li> <li>Rick Connell – Restrictions Coordinator Alt; Wade Muehlhof – Media Coordinator</li> <li>Biweekly calls Tues @ 1100</li> </ul> <p>Lewistown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having weekly calls</li> <li>Not anticipating restrictions</li> </ul> <p>Missoula</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup> call on Monday (22)</li> </ul> | <p>Not on Call</p> <p>Carmen Thomason</p> <p>Karen Tuscano</p> <p>Not on Call</p> <p>Jonathan Olsen</p> <p>Manny Mendoza</p> <p>Clive Rooney</p> <p>CJ Johnson</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countywide fire managers face to face meeting on Mondays, restrictions meeting follows</li> </ul> <p><b>ND:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't anticipate any restrictions</li> </ul>  | Sarah Tunge    |
| <p><b>Follow up Items from June Call</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact Info Website: Coordinators and management units</li> <li>Permanent restrictions: By Area and management units</li> <li><b>Action Item:</b> Send to Cathy the above items as soon as you can</li> </ul>  | Cathy Scofield |
| <p><b>Touching Base During Fire Season</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agenda shows Area restriction call times</li> <li>Geographic Restrictions Call: Wed 0900 MDT when activity picks up</li> <li><b>Next Call:</b> August 14 @ 0900; touch base, if have a lot of restrictions prior to that may schedule a call earlier</li> </ul> | Cathy Scofield |