RESOLUTION #2016-09

DECLARING A FIRE BAN IN PLATTE COUNTY DUE TO FIRE DANGER

WHEREAS, the Platte County Fire Warden has recommended on this day a partial closure of all of Platte County, Wyoming, to use of open fires and the use of incendiary devices, for an indefinite period; and

WHEREAS, in Platte County, Wyoming the fire danger index is rated high; and

WHEREAS, the fire danger in Platte County is acute due to temperatures, limited precipitation, and high winds; and

WHEREAS, Wyoming Statutes §35-9-301, 35-9-302, and 35-9-303, give the Platte County Board of County Commissioners the authority, if certain conditions are met to "...close the area to any form of use by the public or may limit such use..", and

WHEREAS, it is uncertain how long the conditions may continue;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Platte County, Wyoming, that effective July 5, 2016 at 11:20 a.m., all of the unincorporated areas within the boundaries of Platte County are subject to a partial closure and all outdoor fires and the discharge of all fireworks, including, but not limited to Class A, B, and C fireworks, are prohibited except as follows:

(i) The Wyoming Military Department land within Platte County for National Guard activities with the following disclaimer;

(a) The lands under the Wyoming Military Department including Camp Guernsey are excluded for military related operations and/or training, including controlled burns, when approved by appropriate Wyoming National Guard Range Officials.

(b) Any costs and services associated with the extinguishing of out-of-control manmade burns caused by this exception will be provided and paid for by the Wyoming Military Department.

(ii) Frontier Astronautics LLC is excluded for the purpose of testing rocket engines, flight vehicles, and their associated hardware at their testing facility located at 609 Windmill Road. All fire suppression costs associated with this exemption will be paid for by Frontier Astronautics

(iii) Attended trash or refuse fires between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., inside containers provided with spark arresters and located within a cleared area ten (10) feet in radius, are permitted.

(iv) Attended campfires contained within an established fire ring with fire suppression available.

(v) Attended charcoal fires and propane fires with enclosed grills within arms-reach of operator are permitted.

(vi) Use of acetylene cutting torches or electric arc welders in cleared areas ten (10) feet in radius is permitted.

(vii) Propane or open fire branding activities in cleared areas ten (10) feet in radius are permitted.

(viii) Wildland firefighters are excluded from this resolution while using firing practices in the scope of their duties during an ongoing fire or training.

(ix) The Town of Wheatland is excluded to burn their wood refuse pile. All fire suppression costs associated with this exemption will be paid for by the Town of Wheatland.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the penalties, pursuant to W.S. §35-9-304, a $100.00 fine, thirty (30) days in the Platte County Jail, or both, may be imposed for violation of the Resolution. The Platte County Fire Warden shall promptly notify the Board of Platte County Commissioners when the condition is mitigated and the fire danger has decreased, and upon such notice the closing may be modified.

Notice of fire closure shall be transmitted to the Wyoming State Forester, Bill Crapser, 5500 Bishop Blvd, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002-0060.

PRESENTED, READ AND ADOPTED this 5th day of July 2016.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Steve Shockley, Commissioner

Sandy Kontour, Commissioner

Eric D. Johnston, Commissioner

Jamie Rietz, Platte County Fire Warden

ATTEST:

Chris Kanwischer, County Clerk