

# ROUTT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## AGENDA COMMUNICATION FORM

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

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

**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.

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**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 90<sup>th</sup> 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.