

SPECIAL CONVERSE COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

March 24, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.

107 N. 5TH STREET, SUITE 114, DOUGLAS, WY 82633
Commission Chambers are OPEN to the public.

1. 1:30 P.M. CONVENE SPECIAL MEETING, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONVERSE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

James H. Willox, Chairman
Richard C. Grant, Vice Chairman
Robert G. Short, Board Member
Trent Kaufman, Board Member
Donald Blackburn, Board Member

2. 1:30 P.M. COUNTY-WIDE FIRE BAN

Resolution 03-26, A Resolution Implementing a Partial Closure with Stage 1 Restrictions per the Board of Land Commissioners' Rules and Regulations Due to Extreme Fire Danger

Documents:

[03-26 CONVERSE COUNTY FIRE BAN 2026.PDF](#)
[ADMIN RULES, BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS, CHAPTER 9.PDF](#)

This agenda is subject to change at any time without notice. The Board may recess into Executive Session, if necessary, at any time. Previous versions of this agenda are available on this website at all times. A regular meeting will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 7 and 8, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. unless otherwise posted. at the Converse County Courthouse within Commission Chambers, 107 N. 5th Street, Douglas, Wyoming. The public is invited to attend any Commissioner meeting. To get on the agenda, contact the County Clerk via email or by calling 307-358-2244 by the Thursday prior to the meeting. Per W.S. §18-3-516(f), access to county information can be obtained at the County's official website, www.conversecountywy.gov or by calling the County Clerk's Office 307-358-2244.

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-26
CONVERSE COUNTY, WYOMING**

**A RESOLUTION IMPLEMENTING A PARTIAL CLOSURE WITH STAGE 1
RESTRICTIONS PER THE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS' RULES
AND REGULATIONS DUE TO EXTREME FIRE DANGER**

WHEREAS, the entirety of Converse County, Wyoming, has a high fuel load which may result in a potentially high fire danger throughout the County and the fire danger is aggravated by unrestricted outdoor fires and open fires; and

WHEREAS, the Converse County Fire Warden has recommended to the Converse County Board of Commissioners a partial closure be ordered for the entirety of Converse County, Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, Section 35-9-301, Wyoming Statutes, 1977, as amended, grants statutory authority to any Board of County Commissioners, within the State of Wyoming, to close or limit the use of any area within its county including, but not limited to the prohibition and/or restrictions of any type of open fire for such period as is deemed necessary and proper, subject to rules promulgated by the Board of Land Commissioners of the State of Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 35-9-303, Wyoming Statutes, 1977, the Board of Land Commissioners have promulgated Rules and Regulations necessary for county fire wardens and boards of county commissioners to carry out the purposes of Sections 35-9-301 through 35-9-304, Wyoming Statutes, 1977; and that per said rules and regulations, the definitions, restrictions, and exceptions pertaining to partial closures are set forth; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed necessary and in the best interests of the citizens of Converse County, Wyoming, that the Converse County Board of Commissioners order a partial closure with Stage 1 Restrictions, per Chapter 9 of the Board of Land Commission Rules and Regulations, within the boundaries of Converse County and provide certain exceptions and exemptions to such partial closure order.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CONVERSE COUNTY, WYOMING, that the Board of Commissioners of Converse County make and enter its Order imposing a partial closure within the boundaries of said county as follows:

1. Stage 1 Restrictions:
 - i. Discharge of fireworks and all outdoor fires are prohibited in unincorporated and unimproved areas;
 - ii. Only campfires at residences or campsites, within a fire ring centered within a minimum of a 10-foot cleared radius of burnable materials.
 - iii. 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 radius of a minimum of 10-foot of burnable materials.
 - iv. Charcoal fires within enclosed grills are permitted.
 - v. Use of acetylene cutting, electric arc welders, or metal grinding in a cleared radius of 10-foot of burnable materials.
 - vi. The use of portable stoves, lanterns, using gas, jellied petroleum, pressurized liquid fuel or fully enclosed (shepherd type) stove and open fire branding activities in a cleared radius of 10 feet of burnable materials is permitted.
 - vii. radius of 10 feet of burnable materials is permitted.

Original Record on file at County Commissioners' Office, Converse County Courthouse, Douglas, Wyoming

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following persons shall be ordered to be exempt from the partial closure prohibition and restrictions:

1. Any federal, state, or local officers engaged in fire, emergency, and law enforcement activities.
2. Any member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force engaged in the performance of an official duty.
3. Exceptions to these restrictions and closures can be made in writing by the appropriate jurisdictional entity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the partial closure order shall be effective and in full force beginning March 24, 2026, at 1:30 p.m., upon the signing of the Order of Closure made and entered by authority of this Resolution and shall remain in force and effect until officially removed by the Board of County Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that per W.S. 35-9-304, the use of any area in violation of the Resolution shall be a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00), imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed thirty (30) days, or both the fine and imprisonment, with restitution ordered.

APPROVED, PASSED AND ADOPTED this 24th day of March, 2026.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CONVERSE COUNTY, WYOMING**

James H. Willox, Chairman

ATTEST:

Karen Rimmer, Converse County Clerk

Lands and Investments, Office of
Land Commissioners, Board of

Chapter 9: Governing Fire Danger Closures

Effective Date: 01/06/1997 to Current

Rule Type: Current Rules & Regulations

Reference Number: 060.0002.9.01061997

RULES AND REGULATIONS
BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

Chapter 9

Governing Fire Danger Closures

Section 1. Authority. This chapter is promulgated under the authority of W.S. 35-9-303.

Section 2. Definitions. As used in this chapter:

(a) "Closure" means the imposition of restrictions on, or prohibition of, designated activities within a defined area under the authority of W.S. 35-9-301.

(b) "Unimproved areas" means cropland, agricultural land, and undeveloped land which predominately remains in its natural forested or range condition.

Section 3. Closure Orders. A board of county commissioners shall not order a closure of an area due to fire danger absent a proper showing by the county fire warden of evidence supporting the need for a closure. Closures shall be by written order which shall designate the exact area subject to the order, the activities restricted or prohibited, and the date the closure is to be implemented.

Section 4. Notification of State Forester. Whenever a board of county commissioners orders a closure of an area due to fire danger, the county fire warden shall immediately send a copy of the order to the State Forester.

Section 5. Implementation of Closure Orders. An order for full closure, as provided in subsection 8(b), shall not be implemented until fifteen days after the order has been sent to the State Forester. An order for partial closure, as provided in subsection 8(a), shall be implemented immediately upon execution of the order.

Section 6. Public Notification. The State Forester shall provide posters to be used to notify the public of full closure under this chapter. The State Forester shall cooperate with all relevant local, state, and federal agencies to ensure that the public is notified of the closure. The county fire warden shall post copies of any order in the courthouse, circulate copies to all local news media, and post copies in the area subject to the closure.

Section 7. Enforcement of Closure Orders. The State Forester shall cooperate with all relevant local, state, and federal agencies in operating check stations and patrols to enforce closure orders. All agencies shall bear their own costs.

Section 8. Restricted or Prohibited Activities. Closures may be either partial or full as provided below:

(a) Under a partial closure, discharge of fireworks and all outdoor fires are prohibited in unimproved areas, except as provided below:

(i) Trash or refuse fires between the hours of 6:00 pm and 8:00 am, inside containers provided with spark arresters and located within a cleared area ten feet in radius, are permitted.

(ii) Camp fires contained within an established fire ring at an established campground are permitted.

(iii) Charcoal fires within enclosed grills are permitted.

(iv) Use of acetylene cutting torches or electric arc welders in cleared areas ten feet in radius are permitted.

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

(b) The following activities are restricted or prohibited under a full closure:

(i) Access to the area shall be by permit only.

(ii) All outdoor fires, including, but not limited to, trash fires, charcoal fires, acetylene torches, electric arc welders, grills fueled by any pressurized liquid, and propane burners, are prohibited.

(iii) Smoking shall be restricted to inside vehicles or buildings.

(iv) Fires within fireplaces and woodstoves without chimney or flue screens are prohibited.

(v) All motorized travel shall be restricted to developed roads.

(vi) Use of motorized equipment or tools shall be restricted to cleared areas ten feet in radius.

(vii) Discharge of fireworks is prohibited.

Section 9. Termination of Closure Orders. A board of county commissioners may terminate a closure by rescinding the closure order upon a proper showing of evidence by the county fire warden that the fire danger no longer warrants the closure order. The county fire warden shall immediately notify the State Forester if a closure order is terminated.

Section 10. Exemption from closure orders. The following persons are exempt from the restrictions imposed under full or partial closure:

(a) Any federal, state, or local officers engaged in fire, emergency, and law enforcement activities.

(b) Any member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force engaged in performance of an official duty.