

Unapproved Minutes
Board of Commissioners of Converse County Special Meeting
March 24, 2026

The special meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. on March 24, 2026. Present in person were Commission Chairman, Jim Willox; Commissioners Robert Short and Trent Kaufman; and County Clerk Karen Rimmer. Commissioner Donald Blackburn was present remotely, and Commission Vice-Chairman Rick Grant was excused.

Mr. Short moved to approve:

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.

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

/s/ James H. Willox, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/ Karen Rimmer, Converse County Clerk

Mr. Kaufman seconded. Discussion followed regarding the initiation of this fire ban by Mr. Tom Reed, Converse County Fire Warden, with concurrence from local volunteer fire departments. The county-wide fire ban will be in effect immediately and will remain in effect unless and until it is formally lifted by the Commissioners with concurrence from the Fire Warden. No further discussion and motion carried.

The regular meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

A regular meeting of this Board 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, located at 107 N. 5th Street, Douglas, Wyoming. The public is invited to attend. To get on the agenda, call the Clerk's Office by the Thursday before the meeting. Per W.S. §18-3-516(f), access to county information can be obtained at www.conversecountywy.gov or by calling the County Clerk's Office at (307) 358-2244.

James H. Willox, Chairman

Karen Rimmer, County Clerk

Publish: April 1, 2026, Douglas Budget & Glenrock Independent