

Senator Jon Sonju, Chairman of the Senate Local Government, and members of the committee, my name is Richard E. Grady, of Canyon Creek, MT. My family has a ranching operation that is involved with the requirements of a burning permit program in Lewis and Clark County, worked with the hazard reduction agreement to burn slash on the ranch with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), work to comply with the Air Quality regulations with DEQ and has a conservation easement with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

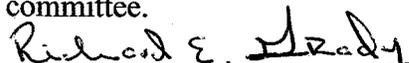
I also serve as a trustee/secretary for the Canyon Creek Rural Fire District and a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee regarding the open space committee in Lewis and Clark County.

I am in support of Senate Bill No. 340 that can help a landowner that must secure a burning permit in a local county, along with the requirements of the Hazard Reduction Agreement (HRA), and be in compliance with Air Quality regulations administrator by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

I have also provide supporting documentation as part of my written testimony what a landowner must comply under the various state statues and the paperwork that is required to burn slash in Montana. I felt the efforts being presented in the bill will work, but their must be an effort if the bill becomes laws to educate County Commissioners, local fire jurisdictions and improve the coordination among DNRC and DEQ to help landowners burn slash in Montana with the change to state statue requirements.

I also recommend to Senator Vincent and the committee to look at how the burning permits in the State vary in terms of administration regarding the cost of a burning permit, who must be contacted by a landowner and how this all will be affected by this proposed bill in regards too the administration of the HRA and DEQ requirements.

Thank-you for the opportunity too provide written comments and testify before the committee.



Richard E. Grady

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Canyon Creek, MT

406-368-2308

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**Forestry
Assistance Bureau**

**How May We Help
You?**

Grants and Cost Share
Assistance

Selling Timber

Logging Slash Reduction

Montana Forest Owners
Network

Protecting Water Quality

FY08 Competitive Grant
Process

Locate your Service
Forester
by Map
by List



Logging Slash Reduction

Text Size 

The Control of Timber Slash and Debris Law ([Title 76, Chapter 13, Part 4](#)), commonly referred to as the "Slash" Law is one of Montana's oldest laws regulating forest practices. The law's history dates back to the early 1900's when it was recognized that timber harvesting slash represented a significant fire hazard. Currently the law requires that "the person conducting the work" (usually the landowner or operator) enter into a bonded contract agreement and is referred to as the "contractor". That agreement is known as a Fire Hazard Reduction Agreement (HRA) and requires that logging slash be reduced to acceptable state standards. Furthermore the law requires sawmills and other purchasers of forest products to obtain proof that the seller of the forest products (the contractor) have such an agreement and that the mills withhold certain funds and transfer those funds to the state which then becomes the bond. The DNRC monitors these agreements and releases the bond on completion of the hazard reduction work. The DNRC also has the responsibility to "...complete, direct or authorize the fire hazard reduction..." should the contractor fail to comply with the law. This law pertains to all private lands in the State of Montana.

Application for Hazard Reduction Agreement (HRA)

A Hazard Reduction Agreement is a bonded agreement between the DNRC and either the person conducting the work to reduce the hazard created from logging debris to state standards.

For more information on this program, contact your local [Service Forester](#) or Program Manager [Dan Rogers](#) at (406)542-4326.

Montana Code Annotated 2009

[Previous Section](#) [MCA Contents](#) [Part Contents](#) [Search](#) [Help](#) [Next Section](#)

76-13-407. Reduction of slash and debris along right-of-way. (1) A person clearing right-of-way for any railroad, public highway, public trail, private road, trail, ditch, dike, pipeline or wire lines, or any other transmission or transportation utility right-of-way, except temporary roads located within the boundaries of the cutting area and which are used in the actual logging operations, shall reduce the hazard resulting from the clearing or from the cutting of material for the construction of the public or private utility unless exempted by the department. At least 10 days before commencement of the clearing, the person conducting the clearing shall notify the department of commencement of the clearing in the form and manner the department provides.

(2) Hazard reduction, excluding burning where this method is used, shall be done as rapidly as cutting or clearing progresses.

(3) This section applies to all clearing of rights-of-way across private land and on behalf of the state, county, highway districts, and road districts, whether the work is done by day labor or by contract, and unless unavoidable emergency prevents, provision shall be made by the proper officials conducting, directing, or letting the work for withholding until it is complete a sufficient portion of the payment to assure compliance with this part.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 207, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 522, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 28-405; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 670, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 513, L. 1989.

Provided by Montana Legislative Services

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FOREST FIRE RULES & REGULATIONS

These rules apply to all activities on all classified forest lands within Montana during the legal Forest Fire Season, including any extension thereof (see 77-5-103(3), 76-11-101, 76-13-102(7), and 76-13-109 MCA). Reference also ARM 36.10.119 through 132.

Related State statute numbers are provided as a reference.

RULE I - DEBRIS BURNING

1. The person conducting the burn shall obtain written authorization from the recognized fire protection agency before igniting any open fire during the legal forest fire season (required by 76-13-121 MCA). The recognized fire protection agency may deny, restrict, or rescind any authorization by notifying the person conducting the burn.
2. All burning must comply with the Department of Environmental Quality or State/county/local open burning regulations.
3. Written authorization is not required for campfires.

RULE II - CAMPFIRES

1. Campfires cannot be left unattended and must be completely extinguished (see 76-13-123 MCA).
2. All campfires must be constructed in cleared or bare areas, and not allowed to spread beyond the established ring, pit, grate, or container.
3. Anyone igniting a campfire is required to have fire tools listed in Rule VIII (4).

RULE III - RAILROADS AND POWERLINES

Railroad and powerline companies are required to prepare and annually update working agreements with recognized fire protection agencies. These agreements must stress safety and fire response procedures; and identify, remove, prevent, modify, abate, or correct forest fire hazards and risks associated with railroad and powerline company operations (see 69-14-721 MCA).

RULE IV - EQUIPMENT

1. All internal combustion engines must be equipped with an approved and effective spark-arresting system, as established in the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's Spark Arrester Guides. Spark-arresting devices must be marked, properly installed, and maintained in accordance with the Guides. The following vehicles are exempt:
 - a. automobiles and light trucks of less than 23,000 GVW when all exhaust gases pass through a properly installed and maintained exhaust system, baffle-type muffler, and tailpipe. Vehicles with glass-pack mufflers do not qualify for the exemption.
 - b. heavy-duty trucks of 23,000 GVW or greater, with a muffler and vertical stack exhaust system extending

above the cab.

- c. vehicles with other spark-arresting systems providing equal or increased effectiveness. Such vehicles must be inspected and have written authorization from the recognized fire protection agency.

2. Equipment used for commercial, ranching, or industrial activities must meet the fire extinguisher and tool requirements listed in Rule VIII (5).

RULE V - FLAMING AND GLOWING SUBSTANCES

1. All flaming and glowing substances, including but not limited to, lighted cigarettes, cigars, ashes, and matches, must be extinguished before being discarded (see 76-13-124 MCA).
2. Smoking is allowed only at areas free of flammable or combustible material. Examples of these areas include a graveled road or an enclosed vehicle.

RULE VI - FIREWORKS

Use of fireworks is prohibited on all classified forest lands unless written authorization is obtained from the recognized fire protection agency. Authorization will only be considered between June 24 and July 5, inclusive, to coincide with the legal dates for the sale of fireworks in Montana (see 50-37-106 MCA).

RULE VII - WILDLAND/URBAN INTERFACE

1. County governments without subdivision wild-fire protection standards are encouraged to establish standards for all new subdivisions by January 1, 2000.
2. The Fire Protection Guidelines for Wildland/Residential Interface Development (DSL/DOJ, 1993) is available for use to assist counties in the development of standards.

RULE VIII - FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AND FIREFIGHTING TOOLS

1. Chainsaw operators shall carry a fully charged and operable fire extinguisher, minimum-capacity 8-ounce liquid or 1-pound dry chemical, with a 4BC or higher rating.
2. Vehicles and equipment, mobile or stationary, with a combustion engine/motor used for commercial, ranching, or industrial activities must have one operable, dry-chemical fire extinguisher with a minimum 2-1/2 -pound capacity and



- 4BC or higher rating.
3. Chainsaw operators shall maintain one usable shovel at chainsaw-fueling sites.
 4. All persons or parties igniting a campfire shall have one usable shovel and bucket. Persons igniting a barbecue need not have a shovel or bucket if the ashes are not removed from the container and the ashes or container are not placed on or near combustible material.
 5. All commercial, ranching, or industrial activities must have:
 - a. one usable shovel or pulaski with each vehicle and equipment with an internal combustion engine/motor, mobile or stationary.
 - b. one backpack pump with each vehicle and with any equipment, used off road, mobile or stationary, with an internal combustion engine/motor, that cannot be used to build fireline and is being operated on combustible material.
 6. Other types of firefighting tools that provide increased efficiency or effectiveness may be substituted by written authorization from the recognized fire-protection agency. For example, a Acombi≡ firefighting tool may be substituted for a shovel or pulaski.

RULE IX - FOREST ACTIVITY RESTRICTIONS

In areas designated by public proclamation by the administrator, division of forestry, as areas of high fire hazard, the administrator may request all persons, firms, or corporations present or engaged in any activity in the areas to voluntarily cease operations or to adjust working hours to less critical periods of the day. In the event such a request is refused, the administrator may issue a written order directing compliance.

RULE X - FOREST CLOSURE

1. During periods of dangerous fire conditions, no person may enter or be upon those forest lands designated by public proclamation by the governor of the state of Montana as areas of dangerous fire hazard except under written permit issued by a recognized agency.
2. Permits to enter upon such areas during the closure may be issued by the recognized agency upon a showing of real need by the applicant. Permits may be issued to those persons having actual residence as a permanent or principal place of abode in the forest lands designated or to persons engaged in non-fire hazardous employment.
3. However, no permit may be required of persons engaged in either firefighting, fire prevention, or law enforcement who are engaged in official business.

RULE XI - CORRECTION OF HAZARD AND UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES OR EVENTS

The recognized fire-protection agency may require identified wildland-fire hazards and/or risks be halted, prevented, abated, removed, disposed of, mitigated, or patrolled. This applies to public, private, nonprofit, commercial, and/or residential circumstances or events.

RULE XII - REQUEST FOR REVIEW

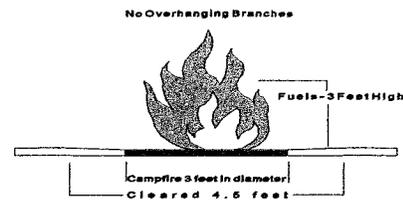
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If any operator believes that in his case any requirement of a recognized agency is excessive, the operator may request the administrator, division of forestry, to review the requirements. If in the opinion of the administrator any or all are not necessary in the interest of public safety, he may make such changes as he considers advisable.

RULE XIII - DEFINITIONS

Backpack Pump: 5-gallon minimum; standard galvanized metal, fiberglass, or rubberized backpack water container with attached handpump; full of water at all times.
Bucket: Metal, plastic, canvas, or fiberglass container capable of holding at least one gallon of water. Motorcycle helmets qualify.
ACampfire≡ means a fire set for cooking, warming, or ceremonial



purposes; not more than 3 feet in diameter or height; void of overhanging branches; with all combustible material cleared at least 1-1/2 times the diameter of the fire; or a barbecue in a noncombustible container.

Combi Tool: A tool combining a shovel and pick.

Fireworks: As defined in 50-37-101 MCA.

Forested Land: As defined in 76-13-102 MCA and 36.10.101 ARM.

Hazard: Condition that promotes the ignition and/or spread of a wildland fire.

Open Fire: The burning of a bonfire, rubbish fire, or other fire in an outdoor location where fuel being burned is not contained in a closed incinerator, or outdoor fireplace. Barbecue pits and burn barrels are considered open fires and therefore require a burning permit (Rule I).

Pulaski: An ax with a medium size sharp grub hoe opposite the ax blade.

Recognized Fire-Protection Authority: An agency organized for the purpose of providing fire protection and recognized by the board as giving adequate fire protection to forest lands in accordance with rules adopted by the board.

Risk: Action or device that could cause a wildland fire to ignite.

Shovel: Vehicle, equipment, and chainsaw operator shovels will have a minimum overall length of 36 inches with a round pointed shovel head with a minimum width of 6 inches. Shovels required for campfires must be at least 24-inches in length with a pointed shovel head. Folding handles qualify.

RULE XIV - APPLICABILITY

The forest fire rules, Rule I through Rule XIII, (ARM 36.10.119 through 30.10.132) are in effect each year on classified forest land during the forest fire season May 1st to September 30th inclusive, or any legal extension thereof. Requirements pertaining to motor vehicles do not apply to those being operated solely on roads that are a part of federal or State maintained highway systems or on any paved public road.



APPLICATION FOR FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION AGREEMENT

| DNRC USE ONLY | |
|-----------------|-------|
| HRA No. | _____ |
| Area | _____ |
| Unit | _____ |
| Date App. Rec'd | _____ |

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT IN INK

I. Type of Agreement (Check One):

- Hazard Reduction Agreement (HRA)** (\$25.00 Application Fee Required)
 Attachment to Master Hazard Reduction Reduction Agreement (MHRA) (Approved MHRA and Bond Required)
 Right-of-Way

II. This AGREEMENT is entered into by _____
(Legal Name of Applicant)

whose mailing address is: _____
(Number, Street, PO Box) (City) (State) (Zip)

_____ (Phone) _____ (Additional Phone) _____ (E-mail address)

Landowner Name: _____

Landowner Address: _____
(Number, Street, PO Box) (City) (State) (Zip)

Landowner Phone: _____ E-Mail _____

Cut by (Name, Address & Phone): _____

Date Cutting Begins: _____

| III. Products to be Cut | Est. Vol. | Rates (HRA Only) | Products to be Cut | Est. Vol. | Rates (HRA Only) |
|--------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Sawlogs | | @ \$6.75/MBF | Fence Rails & Poles 10'-20' | | @ .072 Each |
| Pulpwood/Cordwood | | @ .971/Ton @ 3.375/Cord | Posts & Tree Stakes Less Than 3" | | @ .011 Each |
| Posts, 3"-8" but Less Than 10' | | @ .034 Each | Other | | |

IV. Purchasers/Cities: _____

V. Legal Description of Cutting Activities: (¼; ¼; Section) Section Township Range Harvest Acres

VI. Map of Cutting Activity: Please attach USGS Quad Map or equivalent which clearly shows logging unit(s), existing and new roads, streams, houses, power lines, and other major topographic features.

RESOLUTION 2010 - 362

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE 2011-2012 FIRE SEASON AND RELATED BURN PERMITS AND FEES FOR LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY

WHEREAS, Section 7-33-2205, MCA, provides that the county governing body may, at its discretion, establish fire seasons annually, during which time no person may ignite or set a fire, slash-burning fire, land-clearing fire, debris-burning fire, or open fire within the County protection areas on any forest, range, or croplands without having obtained an official written permit to ignite or set such fire from the recognized protection agency for that protection area; and

WHEREAS, Section 7-33-2206, MCA, provides that any person who ignites or sets any forest fire, slash-burning fire, land-clearing fire, debris-burning fire, or open fire within any forest, range, or croplands during the fire season without first having obtained a written permit to ignite or set such fire is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500 or be imprisoned in the county jail for any term not to exceed six (6) months, or both; and

WHEREAS, Lewis and Clark County has incurred outside costs totaling approximately \$26,000 (Twenty Six Thousand Dollars) to develop a web-based permitting system; and

WHEREAS, a transaction fee of \$2.00 and data hosting fee of \$1.00 will be charged to Lewis and Clark County, and

WHEREAS, Section 2-17-1101, MCA through 2-17-1103, MCA (Montana Electronic Government Services Act) and Section 7-5-2101, MCA and 7-5-2102, MCA authorizes the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to charge fees to recover costs associated with electronic government and business; and

WHEREAS, during the period from March 1, 2011 through November 30, 2011, a person must obtain a permit on-line at www.burnpermits.mt.gov OR by calling 1-800-682-0033 or 1-406-447-8000 OR in-person at the front desk of the City/County Building located at 316 North Park Avenue in Helena, MT before igniting any fire referred to above. School District 38 is excluded from this requirement. During the period from December 1, 2011 through February 28, 2012, a person must obtain documentation from the State of Montana Department of Environmental Quality authorizing burning during that period and present the documentation to the recognized issuing agency for Lewis and Clark County before a permit may be issued; and

WHEREAS, for all persons residing in School District 38: Open burn season is in effect during the period from March 1, 2011 through November 30, 2011. During the period from May 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011 a person must obtain a burn permit from the Lincoln Department of Natural Resources and Conservation or the Lincoln Forest Service Office before igniting any fire referred to above. During the period from December 1, 2011 through February 28, 2012, a person must obtain written authority from the State of Montana Department of Environmental Quality authorizing burning; and

WHEREAS, 7-33-2203, MCA authorizes the BOCC to appoint a county official who in the opinion of the BOCC is best qualified to perform the duties of the office; and

WHEREAS, the primary responsibility of the county Sheriff will be to order the temporary closure of the burn season in the event of extreme fire conditions; and



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WHEREAS, the burn permit activation and information number is 1-877-453-BURN (2876) and the website is www.burnpermits.mt.gov; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lewis and Clark County Board of County Commissioners establish the 2011-2012 fire season for Lewis and Clark County from March 1, 2011 to February 28, 2012; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff is appointed the County Fire Warden; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the annual cost for each new burn permit is \$8.00 (Eight Dollars and Zero Cents) and may be used multiple times on the same property.

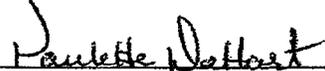
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the annual cost for renewing a burn permit is \$5.00 (Five Dollars and Zero Cents) and may be used multiple times on the same property.

DATED this 28th day of December, 2010.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Michael A. Murray, Chairman

ATTEST:


Paulette DeHart, Clerk of the Board



Lewis & Clark County

COUNTY

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Lewis & Clark County Burn Permit

| Permit Information | | | |
|--------------------|---|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Permit Number: | 0510-023339 | Permit Date: | Mon, Mar 22, 2010, 10:45 AM |
| Permit Holder: | DUANE D TURK PO BOX 147 FORT HARRISON, MT 59636 | Expires On: | Tue, Nov 30, 2010, 11:59 PM |
| | | Home Phone: | 406-443-3889 |
| | | Cell Phone: | |
| | | Alt. Phone: | |
| Insurance Company: | STATE FARM | | |

| Burn Locations | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------|-------|-----------------------------|
| Nickname | Address | City | Zip | Emergency Contact Number(s) |
| Primary | 6170 TURK RD | HELENA | 59602 | 406-443-3889 |

| Activating Your Permit |
|---|
| <p>IMPORTANT: Your burn permit must be activated each day you burn.</p> <p>To activate your permit for a day, edit your contact information or add or remove burn locations, visit: BurnPermit.mt.gov</p> <p>You can also activate your permit by calling: 1-877-453-BURN (2876)</p> |

You must read and agree to the following terms and conditions before burning.

Montana Code Annotated

- MCA 7-33-2205 & 2206 deal with the fire seasons and permit requirements. Violations under those codes are a misdemeanor with fines possible up to \$500 and/or 6 months in jail. Average fines are approximately \$285.
- If a person burns in a manner that is unsafe, damages property belonging to another, or places anyone in danger of injury or death, the Arson laws apply. Negligent arson, MCA 45-6-102, can be either a misdemeanor or felony, depending on the circumstances. Misdemeanor charges can cost up to \$500 and/or up to 6 months in jail. Felony charges can cost up to \$50,000 and/or up to 10 years in prison.
- In all cases, restitution can be ordered separately from the criminal fine. Restitution may include but are not limited to paying damages to other property owners and paying for the firefighting resources.

What responsibilities am I assuming when I light my burn?

1. Fires shall not be ignited when weather, wind and other conditions make it hazardous to do so.
2. You must have enough water, hand tools/equipment, and people to keep your fire under control.
3. If you do not activate your permit before burning, the Fire Department may be dispatched to your fire even though it is under control, and you will be cited.
4. Burn permit must be accessible at the burn location.
5. Someone must remain with the fire until it is completely out. (No smoke or hot embers present)
6. Permission to burn may be revoked at any anytime, due to weather conditions.
7. That you will abide by all permit requirements.

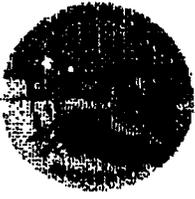


What can I legally burn?

1. Natural vegetation is the **ONLY** thing that your burn permit allows you to burn.
2. You are not allowed to burn prohibited materials as outlined in the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's air quality regulations found at ARM 17.8.604. This includes, but is not limited to buildings, asphalt shingles, campers, garbage, railroad ties, plastic products, paper products, cardboard, manure, dead animals, etc.

| Lewis & Clark County Burn Permit Payment Receipt | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Permit Number: | 0510-023339 |
| Transaction ID: | burna100801645403aff00 |
| Permit Amount: | \$10.00 |
| Issued On: | Mon, Mar 22, 2010, 10:45 AM |
| Permit Expires: | Tue, Nov 30, 2010, 11:59 PM |

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OPEN BURNING PERMIT

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA

PERMIT NUMBER: 11-000062

BE ADVISED: Pursuant to MCA 7-33-2205, the county governing body requires written permits for all open burning within County jurisdiction and may establish fire seasons annually. Commissioners can suspend open burning when conditions warrant.

Under the provision of MCA 50-63-103 **YOU ARE LIABLE** for any and all fire suppression costs and damages resulting from an escaped and/or uncontrollable fire. You are liable for your fires despite the fact you may have been issued this permit. Under MCA 45-6-102, a person commits the offense of negligent arson if he purposely places the property of another in danger of damage or destruction and can be fined \$500.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Name: | Stuart Andersen | |
| Address: | P.O. Box 50010, Billings, MT 59105 | |
| Phone: | (406) 373-5802 | |
| Location of Burn: | 6240 Dawson Dr. | |
| Materials: | ditches, branches, weeds | |
| Approved by: R. Boschee | Date Issued: 1/6/2011 | Expiration Date: 12/31/2011 |

Air Quality Program - Room 4300 - Administration Building - 2626 1st Ave S - (406) 256-6841

Prior to ignition, it is the responsibility of each permit holder to contact their local Fire Department, listed below, the City/County Dispatch Center (657-8200) or Laurel Dispatch Center (628-8737) and the Air Pollution Control Office (256-6841) on each day that burning is anticipated and provide the following information. If you are planning a weekend or holiday burn, contact the Air Pollution Control Office on the Friday prior to burning.

- a. Location of where burning will be conducted
- b. Material to be burned.
- c. Call when fire is done.

During a National Weather Service Red Flag Warning, no open burning is allowed.

This permit may be suspended or revoked at any time when conditions warrant, or when permit holder is in non-compliance with the Open Burning Policy.

I have read, understand, and agree to the requirements and provisions set forth in this permit and in the Yellowstone County Open Burning Regulations. This permit is not valid until signed. **KEEP THIS COPY IN YOUR POSSESSION** (while burning).

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Fire Departments

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|--|----------------------|
| Dispatch Center 657-8200 | Blue Creek 208-0524 | Broadview 667-2278 | Custer 856-4261 | Laurel 628-8737 |
| Haley Bench 348-3000 | Huntley-Worden 967-2111 | Lockwood 252-1460 | Molt 669-3106 669-3178 850-0284 | Shepherd 373-9005 |

DO NOT LEAVE FIRE UNATTENDED
OPEN BURNING DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS ONLY
DAYS OF GOOD VENTILATION ONLY

Open Burning Permits may be renewed online at the county website (www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov).
Choose Burn Permits under Residents Links or Business Links, then click on the link for Renewal.
You will need your last permit number for online renewal.



Interagency Burn Permit Center (IBPC)

[HOME](#)

[| GET OR RENEW PERMIT](#)

[| REQUIREMENTS](#)

[| TIPS & CONDITIONS](#)

[| SEASON SCHEDULE](#)

[| CAMPFIRES](#)

[| HELPFUL INFO](#)

Requirements

The Montana state forest fire season is from May 1st through September 30th each year. During this period, permits are required for open debris burning. (*Definition: 76-13-102 MCA, State Statute 76-13-121 MCA*)

WHAT CAN YOU BURN?

Only two types of debris burning are allowed in Montana:

1. **Agricultural debris:**

This debris is created from farming, ranching, and gardening. Your field or garden may benefit if you simply plow the dried plants and leaves under. If you intend to burn, be sure you are fully prepared. If possible, a fire control line should be plowed around the area to be burned. Large fields should be divided into small plots to be burned one at a time.

2. **Wildland debris:**

This debris is created in two ways.

A. Natural accumulations of needles, grasses, leaves, shrubs, limbs, and trees.

B. Unnatural accumulations of fuel resulting from management activities such as land clearing or timber harvesting.

WHAT CAN'T YOU BURN?

Prohibited materials to burn include business waste, treated or painted wood or lumber, tar paper, tires, insulated wire, any salvage, oil products, styrofoam or plastics, food wastes, animal parts or waste, hazardous waste, noxious waste, and any man-made material. Trade Waste permits may be issued for wood or wood by-product trade wastes generated by any business, industry trade, or demolition project. Trade waste permits may be obtained by calling your local city-county health department.

In Flathead County call the Flathead City-County Health Department at 751-8130

In Lake County call the CSKT Division of Fire at 406-676-2550 or the MT DEQ at 406-444-4267

PLEASE BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE!

Escaped debris fires can threaten valuable resources, as well as lives and property. Follow the information provided under "Tips & Conditions" to reduce the risk of an escaped debris fire.

Remember, you are responsible for any and all suppression costs if your fire escapes your control! (*State Statute 50-63-103 MCA*)

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