

Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Temporary Closure or Restriction Order

OFFICE: Lander Field Office, Wind River/Bighorn Basin District, Wyoming

ACTION: Weiser Knoll Fire motorized closure

SUMMARY:

The BLM proposes to temporarily close existing roads and trails on BLM-managed lands within the Weiser Knoll fire rehabilitation area to all motorized travel. This closure area includes all roads and trails on the approximately 9,100 acres of BLM-managed lands within the Weiser Knoll fire perimeter, located in Fremont County, Wyoming.

The temporary closure is needed to:

- Ensure human health and safety by restricting public access to highly erodible soils and slopes that have been made more susceptible to instability as a result of the wildfire and fire-response activities.
- Protect investments in fire rehabilitation and restoration by reducing the potential for public use to disturb implemented or ongoing rehabilitation treatments and allowing those treatments to become established.
- Reduce the potential for the introduction and spread of noxious weeds and non-native invasive species within the post-fire rehabilitation area, where disturbed soils and reduced vegetation cover may increase susceptibility to invasive species establishment and spread.
- Reduce further resource damage from motorized vehicles, including rutting, erosion, soil compaction, damage to recovering vegetation, and impacts to watershed function.
- Reduce disturbance to wildlife and wildlife habitat, including habitat for greater sage-grouse, mule deer, and other wildlife during the post-fire recovery and rehabilitation period.

RATIONALE:

This closure is in conformance with the June 2014 Lander Resource Management Plan, as amended. Closure authority is provided in 43 CFR § 8364.1. NEPA analysis cited the categorical exclusion authority provided for in 516 DM 11.9(G)(3) — temporary road or trail closure.

EXEMPTIONS:

This order does not apply to Federal, State, Tribal, and local officers and employees in the performance of their official duties; members of organized rescue or firefighting forces in the performance of their official duties; and persons with written authorization from the BLM.

This order does not apply to private landowners requiring access across existing BLM roads and trails to and from their property.

This order does not preclude access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners, as prescribed for in Executive Order 13007.

This order does not apply to activities conducted under contract with the BLM, agency personnel monitoring the event, or activities conducted under an approved plan of operations. Authorized users must have in their possession a written permit or contract from the BLM, signed by the authorized officer.

LOCATION:

Legal Description: The temporary motorized vehicle closure area includes sections 13-15, 17-20, and 22-36, T31N, R98W; Sections 24, 25, and 36, T31N, R99W; and Sections 1-11, 14-17, and 21-22, T30N, R98W in Fremont County, Wyoming, encompassing approximately 9,100 acres, as depicted on the attached closure map.

DATES:

Begins: Effective date of this notice

Ends: July 1, 2028

NOTIFICATION METHODS AND POSTED LOCATIONS :

The public was notified of this temporary closure via the attached press release, BLM-managed social media sites, and posted at the BLM Lander Field Office. The closure was also communicated by signage at access points into the impacted area.

ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES :

Any person who violates the temporary closures or restrictions in this order may be tried before a United States magistrate and fined not more than \$1,000 in accordance with [43 CFR 8364.1](#), State or local officials may also impose penalties for violations of State law.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lander Field Office Recreation Program, 307-332-8400.

APPROVED BY:

Ruth A. Miller, BLM Lander Field Manager