



GUNNISON COUNTY SHERIFF FIRE RESTRICTION ORDER # 2022-002

The Gunnison County Sheriff has determined that with the improved fire conditions throughout Gunnison County, the County will **rescind Fire Restrictions** effective 12:01 am, Wednesday June 29, 2022.

The following process was used to determine Fire Restrictions for Gunnison County:

Following established federal guidelines which utilize the National Fire Danger Rating System, if the Energy Release Component (ERC) and Burning Index (BI) fire indices reach the 90th percentile in the Gunnison Basin, then a meeting with the Gunnison Basin Wildfire Council must be convened to discuss restrictions. (See definitions below).

Since the June 21, 2022 Gunnison Basin Wildfire Council meeting, the ERC and BI have dropped and remained below the 90th percentile. This information was presented by the USFS at the Gunnison Basin Wildfire Council meeting at 10:00am, June 28, 2022.

The decision for the County to move in or out of Fire Restrictions is then based on the below criteria which were discussed in detail at the Gunnison Basin Wildfire Council meeting. A summary of current conditions for each item is included below.

- 1) **Criteria:** Is local resource availability reduced where a significant fire would be difficult to staff adequately?
 - a) **Summary:** All agencies indicated they are fully resourced or near fully resourced. This may change if fire conditions continue to improve and resources are deployed elsewhere where fire conditions are worse, but agencies indicated adequate capacity for wildfire response in Gunnison County.
- 2) **Criteria:** Consider whether local area human caused occurrence are predicted to continue or is risk expected to increase.
 - a) **Summary:** There have been no human starts reported and agencies are adequately staffed for the 4th of July weekend.
- 3) **Criteria:** Consider if weather patterns and potential risk are predicted to continue. Are conditions going to change or remain consistent?
 - a) **Summary:** Consistent precipitation has decreased our ERC indices into the 40th-60th percentile (well below the 90th percentile). Precipitation is forecasted to continue with monsoonal moisture returning this week and through the weekend. The 6-10 and 8-14 day forecasts predict above normal precipitation for our region.



- 4) **Criteria:** Are federal partners, such as the BLM Gunnison Field Office and the Gunnison National Forest, going into restrictions?
 - a) **Summary:** The GMUG is rescinding fire restrictions Wednesday 6/29 at 12:01am and the BLM is rescinding restrictions on Friday 7/1 at 12:01am.
- 5) **Other Criteria:** The Gunnison Basin Wildfire Council will continue to meet weekly to monitor these criteria, regardless of ERC percentiles.

Therefore, a combination of the fire indices and discussion on the above criteria at the Gunnison Basin Wildfire Council leads the Council to recommend rescinding Fire Restrictions in Gunnison County.

As Sheriff of Gunnison County, and with the authority given to me to implement fire restrictions in Gunnison County by Gunnison County Resolution 2022-13, I hereby rescind Fire Restrictions for all of unincorporated Gunnison County, effective 12:01 am Wednesday June 29, 2022.

Sheriff John Gallowich
John Gallowich, Gunnison County Sheriff

6-28-2022
Date

Definitions:

Energy Release Component (ERC) - Based upon the estimated potential available energy released per unit area in the flaming zone of a fire. It is dependent upon the same fuel characteristics as the spread component (SC). The day to day variations of the ERC are caused by changes in the moisture contents of the various fuel classes, including the 1,000 hour time lag class. ERC is derived from predictions of the rate of heat release per unit area during flaming combustion and the duration of the burning. Expressed in BTU's per square foot.

Burning Index (BI) - A measure of fire intensity. BI combines the Spread Component and Energy Release Component to relate to the contribution of fire behavior to the effort of containing a fire. BI has no units, but in general it is 10 times the flame length of a fire.

National Preparedness Levels:

Level 1 - During this time, fire personnel are able to suppress wildfires in their respective geographic areas without requesting additional wildland fire resources from other areas or from the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC), based at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho. Fire activity is typically below normal at this level.



Level 2 - At this stage, several geographic areas are experiencing high to extreme fire danger, though they are able to manage fire activity without requesting many wildland fire suppression resources from other areas. Few of the country's IMTs are assigned to wildland fire incidents

Level 3 - This stage typically involves two or more geographic areas requiring significant amounts of wildland fire suppression resources from other areas. At this point, NICC is moving an increased amount of wildland fire suppression resources around the country, including IMTs

Level 4 - This level involves three or more geographic areas experiencing large, complex wildfires requiring IMTs. Geographic areas are competing for wildland fire suppression resources and about 60 percent of the country's IMTs and wildland firefighting personnel are committed to wild-land fire incidents.

Level 5 - This is the highest level of wildland fire activity. Several geographic areas are experiencing large, complex wildland fire incidents, which have the potential to exhaust national wildland firefighting resources. At least 80 percent of the country's IMTs and wildland firefighting personnel are committed to wildland fire incidents. At this level, all fire-qualified federal employees become available for wildfire response

The Gunnison Basin Wildfire Council is comprised of the following:

- Gunnison County Sheriff's Office
- Gunnison County Public Works
- Gunnison County Office of Emergency Management
- Gunnison Volunteer Fire Department
- Crested Butte Fire Protection District
- Crested Butte Marshal
- Mt. Crested Butte Police
- Carbondale Fire Protection District
- Arrowhead Fire Protection District
- Lake City Fire
- Hinsdale County Sheriff's Office
- Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC)
- Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS)
- United States Forest Service (USFS)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- National Parks Service (NPS)
- Gunnison Hinsdale Combined Emergency Telephone Authority (GHCETSA)