

RESOLUTION NO.: 2023-_____

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT A DROUGHT EMERGENCY EXISTS IN ALL UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND IMPLEMENTING HERNANDO COUNTY ORDINANCE 2001-02.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Hernando County (the “Board”) has adopted Ordinance No. 2001-02 setting forth the procedures to follow in the event the Board declares that a drought emergency exists; and,

WHEREAS, due to climatic conditions causing an extreme shortage of rainfall, a drought emergency exists in the unincorporated areas of Hernando County (the “County”); and,

WHEREAS, the Board can implement the burn ban provisions of Ordinance No. 2001-02 by adopting a resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

The above-stated recitals are hereby incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2.

Pursuant to Section 4 of Ordinance No. 2001-02, the Fire Chief has made a written determination as to the existence of drought conditions in the County. A copy of the Fire Chief’s determination is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit “A.”

SECTION 3.

In accordance with the provisions of Ordinance No. 2001-02 and the Fire Chief’s written determination, the Board finds that an emergency drought condition exists in the County and implements the provisions of Ordinance No. 2001-02.

SECTION 4.

This resolution shall remain in full force and effect until the Board by like resolution determines that emergency drought conditions no longer exist in the County, or the Fire Chief notifies the Board in writing that the Keetch-Byram Drought Index remained below 400 in the County for a period of seven consecutive days, whichever occurs first.


ADOPTED in Regular Session this 11th day of April 2023.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Attest: _____
DOUGLAS CHORVAT, JR.
Clerk & Comptroller

By: _____
JOHN ALLOCCO
Chairman

Approved for Form and Legal Sufficiency



County Attorney



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
HERNANDO COUNTY FIRE RESCUE

15470 FLIGHT PATH DRIVE ♦ BROOKSVILLE FLORIDA 34604
P 352.540.4353 ♦ F 352.540.4355 ♦ W www.HernandoCounty.us



To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the
Hernando County Board of County Commissioners.

From: Patrick Taylor, Deputy Fire Chief
Hernando County Fire Rescue

Date: April 4, 2023

Re: Request to Enact County-Wide Burning Ban

With the on-going lack of precipitation and increasing temperatures, Hernando County Fire Rescue has recognized a spike in the number of brush fires. From January 1, 2023, through the authoring of this request, HCFR has responded to 115 brush fires of various sizes and intensities.

The current Keetch-Byram Drought Index for Hernando County is 546 (Moderate/High) as of 04/03/2023 which is a 6-point increase over the prior reading with the Florida Fire Service reporting 53 active wildfires across the state. The County is on track to reach severe drought/fire conditions. The highest rating on the scale is 800 (Desert-like conditions).

Conversations with other area fire departments have yielded the following information:

- Pasco County – In process of initiating a ban
- Citrus County – In process of initiating a ban
- City of Brooksville – Agreement with HCFR for need of a ban.
- Counties with Burning Bans in place:
 - Brevard
 - Collier
 - Hendry
 - Lee
 - Orange
 - Osceola
 - Polk
 - Seminole

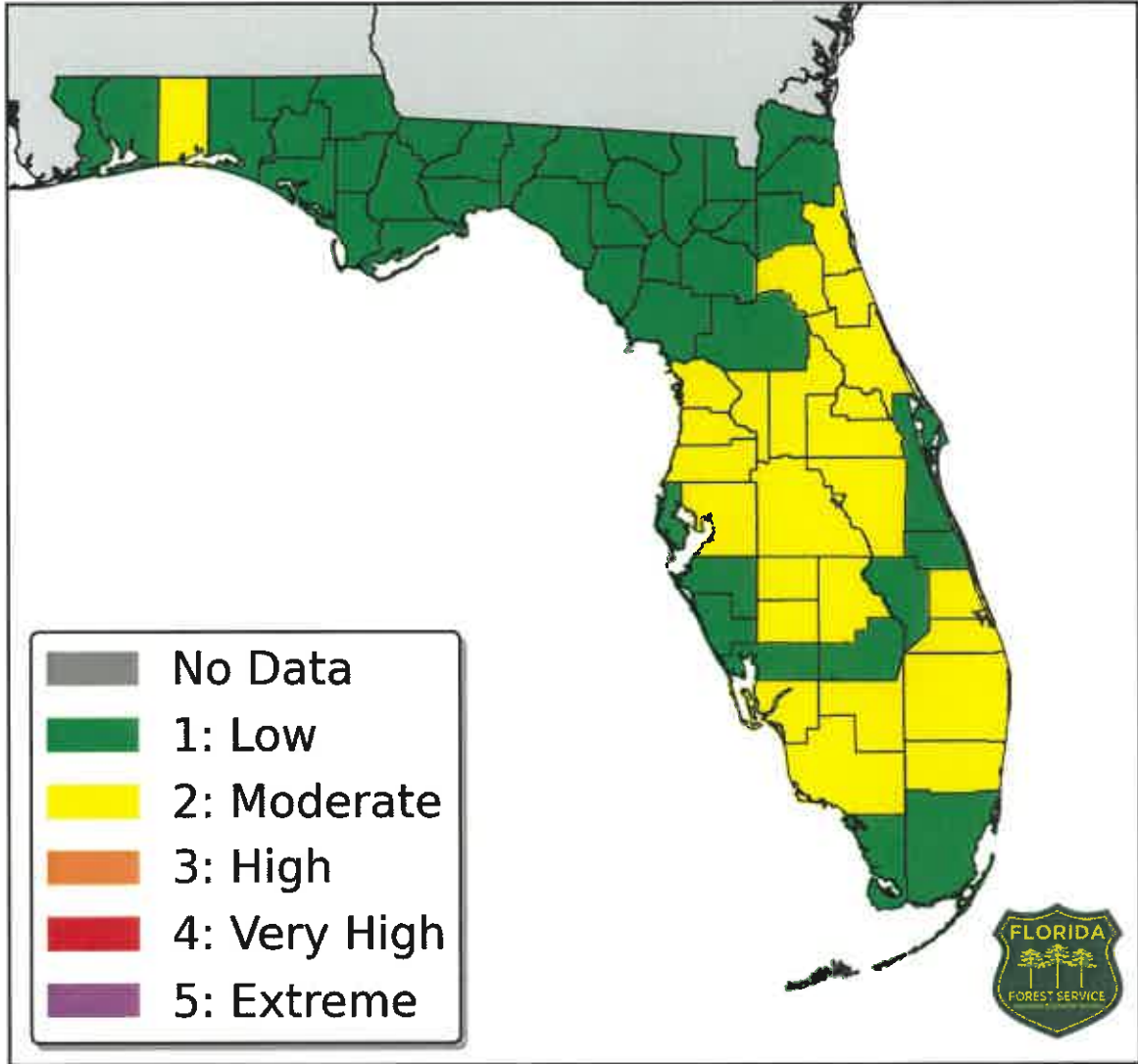
The Florida Department of Agriculture is forecasting above average temperatures as we move into the driest months (April/May).

HCFR is requesting the implementation of a County-Wide Burn Ban, in accordance with Hernando County Ordinance 2001-02. And as such would apply to all unincorporated areas of Hernando County.

HCFR recommends reevaluating the Burn Ban on a 7-day cycle with an automatic canceling of the ban when the KBDI falls to below 400 for a period of 7-days.

Exhibit "A"

Forecast Fire Danger Indices April 04, 2023



Florida Forest Service

KBDI Summary for April 03, 2023

	Mean	Change	Min/Max	Percent of Area in KBDI Range							
				0-100	101-200	201-300	301-400	401-500	501-600	601-700	701-800
Statewide	387	+9	11 / 719	20	11	7	4	9	27	20	1

KBDI Values by County

	Mean	Change	Min/Max	Percent of Area in KBDI Range							
				0-100	101-200	201-300	301-400	401-500	501-600	601-700	701-800
Hernando	546	+6	510 / 574	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0

The Keetch-Byram drought index (KBDI) is a continuous reference scale for estimating the dryness of the soil and duff layers.

The range of the index is determined by assuming that there is 8 inches of moisture in a saturated soil that is readily available to the vegetation.

Updated once every day at 1:15 p.m. Eastern/12:15 p.m. Central (Standard) or 2:15 p.m. Eastern/1:00 p.m. Central (Daylight Saving).