

**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2025-03**

Whereas, The Black Hills National Forest is one of the most heavily populated forests in the United States and presents numerous wildland urban interface issues, where developed areas intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels; and,

Whereas, This area is susceptible to wildland fires that can devastate critical infrastructure, essential facilities, homes, and businesses, and threaten one of South Dakota's top tourism regions, including Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Crazy Horse Memorial, the historic towns of Lead and Deadwood, Custer State Park, and numerous other cultural and historical properties; and,

Whereas, The topography and heavy fuel loads in the northern parts of the Black Hills National Forest promote dangerous fire behavior and can hinder firefighting efforts; and,

Whereas, The mission of the South Dakota Wildland Fire Division is to provide protection for resources and the public from wildland fire and concentrate its direct suppression responsibility on forestland in and adjacent to the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District; and,

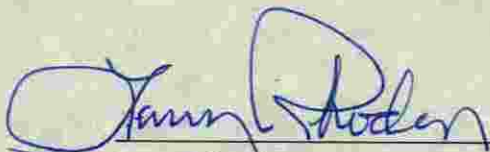
Whereas, The South Dakota Wildland Fire Division, together with the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management, are called upon by local fire departments throughout the State to assist with range firefighting during the gubernatorial declared emergency conditions:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Larry Rhoden, Governor of the State of South Dakota, under SDCL Chapters 34-48A, 33-9, and 41-20A, otherwise known as the Emergency Management Law, Active Service of National Guard Law, and Fire Prevention and Suppression Law, do hereby grant authority to the South Dakota Wildland Fire Division to augment all of its firefighting response efforts throughout the State, with available assets of the South Dakota National Guard during and following an initial attack on any wildfires to which South Dakota Wildland Fire responds.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, That this Executive Order shall continue until revoked.

Dated in Pierre, South Dakota, this 28th day of March, 2025.




Larry Rhoden
Governor

ATTEST:


Monae L. Johnson
Secretary of State