

STILLWATER COUNTY

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02

Sheep Dip Road Speed Limit Ordinance

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A SPEED LIMIT ON SHEEP DIP ROAD, NEAR THE TOWN OF COLUMBUS, STILLWATER COUNTY, MONTANA, AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF.

WHEREAS, Mont. Code Ann. Sections 7-14-2113 and 61-12-101 grant to the Stillwater County Commissioners the authority to establish a special speed limit on county roads within Stillwater County, to enact ordinances not in conflict with state or federal regulations, and to enforce said ordinances within the jurisdiction of Stillwater County;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. Section 61-8-310(2), a local authority in its jurisdiction may set a reasonable and safe speed limit, as provided in Mont. Code Ann. Section 61-8-310(1)(c), without an engineering and traffic investigation on a county road;

WHEREAS, Mont. Code Ann. Section 61-8-310(1)(c) provides that a local authority in its jurisdiction may decrease the speed limit outside of an urban district, but not to less than 35 miles per hour on a paved road or less than 25 miles per hour on an unpaved road; and,

WHEREAS, adjusting the speed limit on Sheep Dip Road is necessary to reduce the risk of accidents caused by higher speeds and is a more reasonable and safe maximum speed, given the conditions of the road and expected traffic in the speed zone area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of Stillwater County, Montana, that a speed limit ordinance on the Sheep Dip Road, as described below, located near Absarokee, within Stillwater County, be enacted as follows in accordance with the Speed Limit Investigation:

A. Application and Speed Limits:

The Special Speed Limit of 35 mph shall apply to:

Sheep Dip Road, beginning at the intersection of said road and Gates Road in the SE1/4SE1/4 of Section 16, Township 2 South, Range 20 East, and continuing in an east-northeast direction through Sections 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, Township 2 South, Range 20 East, to the end of the road at the intersection of said road and Columbus Molt Road in Govt. Lot 4, Section 7, Township 2 South, Range 21 East, approximately 4.15 miles.

B. Posting:

The speed limit set by this Ordinance shall be posted as required by law or applicable regulations.

C. Penalties:

61-8-711. Violation of chapter penalty.

1. It is a misdemeanor for a person to violate any of the provisions of this chapter unless the violation is declared to be a felony.
2. Each person convicted of a misdemeanor for a violation of any of the provisions of this chapter for which another penalty is not provided shall for a first conviction be punished by a fine of not less than \$10 or more than \$100. For second conviction within 1 year after the first conviction, the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$25 or more than \$200. Upon a third or subsequent conviction within 1 year after the first conviction, the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$50 or more than \$500.

3. Except as provided in subsection (4), failure to pay a fine imposed under this chapter is a civil contempt of the court. On failure of payment of a fine, the court may:
- a) order enforcement of the fine by execution in the manner provided in 25-13-204 and under the provisions of Title 25, chapter 13; or
 - b) if the court finds that the person is unable to pay, order the person to perform community service.
4. If property is not found in an amount necessary to satisfy the unpaid portion of the fine and if the court makes a written finding that community service is inappropriate, the person shall be imprisoned in the county jail in the county in which the offense was committed, and the imprisonment shall be the number of days that the fine is divisible by the dollar amount of the incarceration credit contained in 46-18-403.
5. Upon conviction, the court costs or any part of the court costs may be assessed against the defendant in the discretion of the court.

Date of First Reading and Approval:

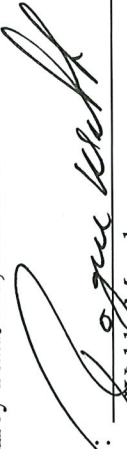
PASSED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF STILLWATER COUNTY, MONTANA, this 8th day of December, 2025.

By: 
Steve Riveland, Chair

Date: 12-8-25

By: 
Jeffrey Ruffatto, Member

Date: 12-8-25

By: 
Roger Webb, Member

Date: 12-8-25

Date of Second Reading and Approval:

PASSED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF STILLWATER COUNTY, MONTANA, this ___ day of December, 2025.

By: _____
Steve Riveland, Chair

Date: _____

By: _____
Jeffrey Ruffatto, Member

Date: _____

By: _____
Roger Webb, Member

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Heidi L. Stadel, Clerk and Recorder

THIS ORDINANCE shall be in full force and effect thirty (30) days after the date of the Second Reading and Approval by the Board of County Commissioners of Stillwater County, Montana.