**Delegation of Authority**

Taylor Fire

August 5, 2021

Effective at August 6, 2021 at 0600 all Agencies party to this agreement have delegated authority to County Assist Team to manage the Taylor Fire LG08-000400. The CAT will have command of all lands, including the BLM-North Central District, Lewistown, Field Office; State of Montana-DNRC, North Eastern Land Office, Lewistown Unit Office and Private lands in Fergus County.

The scope and management of resources for this incident is complex and will require a high degree of coordination and planning with all partners. Because of limited resources in the East Zone, you will need to be effective and efficient with the resources on the incident.

Objectives for management of this fire are:

1. Protect human life. Firefighter, aviation, and public safety are of utmost importance and will be provided for at all times. When in doubt, sacrifice acres, not safety, in your strategic and tactical decisions. Take necessary precautions to prevent possible COVID19 exposure and spread by following the guidance provided by the CDC.
2. Action taken should be evaluated and applied utilizing LCES, the Ten Standard Firefighting Orders and Eighteen Watch-Out Situations guidelines to enhance safe operations throughout the incident.
3. Implement a safe aggressive full suppression strategy utilizing direct and indirect attack tactics where and whenever safe to do so.  Take advantage of natural features such as breaks in fuels, topographic features, or changes in weather.
4. Protect infrastructure and structures as can be done safely, following the guidance from #1 and #2.

Social/Economic Concerns:

* Public information for this incident will be handled by your IMT. Be proactive in keeping the Agency Administrators, local government, elected officials, and the public informed. Coordinate directly with the BLM Public Affairs Officer, Regina Baltrusch 791-7778, and the DNRC-North Eastern Land Office Area Manager, Clive Rooney (366-6356) for local media contacts and news releases.
* Maintain good working relationships with landowners, Agency personnel, local governments, and local communities.
* Provide effective management of costs commensurate with resource values to be protected and strategic direction of the ISA.
* Continuance of positive and engaged landowner relationships is imperative.
* Ensure prompt and accurate communications with County Commissioners, Federal and State representatives.
* Landowners and Rural Fire Departments have the right to initial attack on private and State lands and are required to do so. Coordinate with private property owners in suppression efforts on private lands.
* Keep landowners informed of operational activities that may occur on their private lands as practical.

Resource and Sensitive Species:

* Agency Resource Advisor Kevin Hodge 538-1925 will be assigned by the BLM.
* Manage the fire with as little environmental damage as possible.
* Consult with the BLM Resource Advisor on BLM Lands for:
  + cultural features requiring priority protection.
* Key resource considerations: Rural residences, Cropland, Rangeland and water resources, sage-grouse habitat. Be aware of Retardant Avoidance Areas- e.g., waterways and drainages.
* Mitigation of spread of noxious weeds is recommended.
* Rehab according to Agency standards of fire line construction on BLM, USFS, Private and State lands will be completed prior to the IMT being released. Utilize Resource Advisors to facilitate areas of concern for rehab. Utilize Planning Section to assist with preparation of Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation plans as requested.
* Provide regular and timely notification of predicted and changing weather conditions to fire personnel.
* Prioritize protection of private structures within and adjacent to the incident.
* IMT may be asked to support the BLM and the counties with Initial Attack with resources assigned to the Taylor Fire.
* The expectation is that the IMT will assure everyone will treat each other with mutual respect and report any instances of harassment to the Agency Administrators. Harassment will not be tolerated.
* Please refer to guidance in PMS 444 in reference to Aquatic Invasive Species regarding incoming resources.

Fire Business:

* Fire Business Guidelines as outlined by the draft North – Central Montana District Incident Business Operating Guidelines will be adhered to.
* The IMT will submit complete and final financial packets prior to demobilization or as negotiated by the Agency Administrators.
* Fire perimeters and progression maps will be submitted to Lewistown Dispatch and Agency Administrators on a daily basis. Surface management agencies will be defined on all maps for cost-share purposes.
* All equipment in paid status used on the incident shall have both pre-use and post-use inspections documented and included in the final fire package.
* All orders for additional resources will be routed to Lewistown Dispatch insert [mtlec@firenet.gov](mailto:mtlec@firenet.gov) 538-1072. Consolidation of orders is preferred prior to submission.

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Incident Management Team

Don Pyrah, Incident Commander

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BLM-North Central District, Lewistown Field Office

Brett Blumhart, Field Manager

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State of Montana-DNRC, North Eastern Land Office

Clive Rooney, Area Manager

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Fergus County

Chair Fergus County Commison