Cooperative Agreement
Between the
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
And the
Department of Corrections

This agreement is entered into as of the 13 day of April, 2006, by and between the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and the Department of Corrections (DOC) to provide for a trained fire crew hereinafter referred to as the Deer Lodge Crew, to suppress wildland fires burning on or threatening land protected by agencies recognized by the DNRC.

Now therefore, it is mutually agreed:

1. That the DOC will provide Deer Lodge Crew members from properly screened inmates at Montana State Prison.

2. That the DOC will provide the necessary correctional officers to assure 24 hour security of the Deer Lodge Crew when on a fire assignment.

3. That the DNRC will train the inmates and correctional officers of the Deer Lodge Crew in various aspects of safety and wildland fire suppression.

4. That the DNRC will provide the necessary vehicles, fire suppression tools and personal protective equipment for the Deer Lodge Crew. The one exception is work boots, which will be the responsibility of individual inmates and correctional officers.

5. That the DNRC will provide a qualified Crew Boss to supervise the Deer Lodge Crew while on a fire assignment.

6. That use of the Deer Lodge Crew will be limited to wildland fires within the State of Montana.

7. That the DNRC will make reimbursement to the DOC for expenses approved by the DNRC, and reported on itemized statements of charges by DOC for those fires in which the Deer Lodge Crew was ordered by the DNRC.

8. That representatives of the DNRC and the DOC will develop an Operating Plan that will supplement this Cooperative Agreement. The Operating Plan will address the specifics of the organization, training and use of the Deer Lodge Crew.

9. That representatives of the DNRC and the DOC agree to meet as needed to review this Cooperative Agreement and the Operating Plan. Either document may be

revised at any time by mutual consent of both parties or be terminated with 30 days written notice from either party to the other.

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

By _____
Director, DNRC

Department of Corrections

By _____
Director, DOC