



- ▶ NO SERIOUS ACCIDENTS OR INJURIES
- ▶ 278 FIRES FOR 15,986 ACRES
- ▶ 98% SUCCESS, 10 ACRES OR LESS, ON 265 DIRECT PROTECTION FIRES
- ▶ 13 COUNTY ASSIST FIRES
- ▶ 60 MUTUAL AID FIRES
- ▶ 14 COUNTIES IMPLEMENTED FIRE RESTRICTIONS

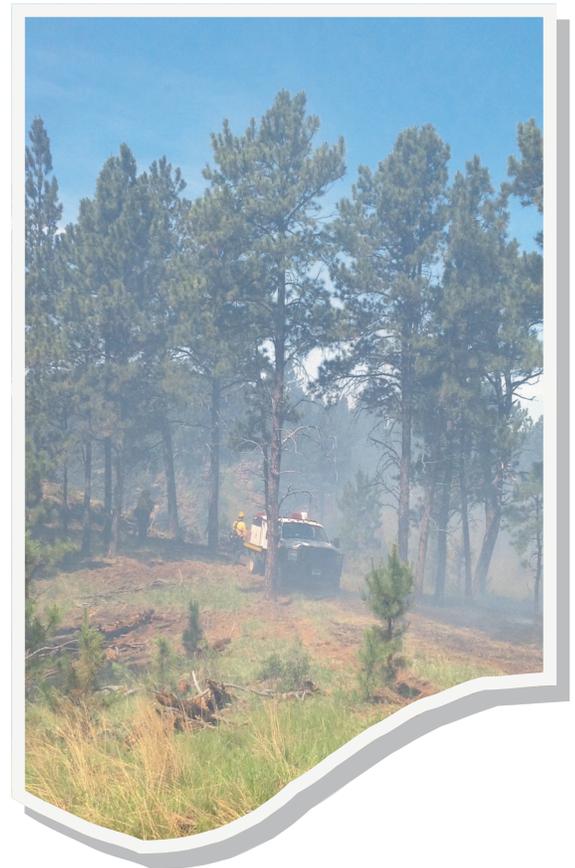
# 2014

# Wildfire *summary*

FORESTRY DIVISION

## Safety, Success, Teamwork

The 2014 fire season was one with below average number of fires and considerably less acres burned. The weather & fuel conditions, combined with successful suppression operations, limited fire activity across much of Montana. The DNRC was successful in safely suppressing 98% of fires during initial attack. Due to the slower season DNRC was also able to send firefighters to Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and California to support their fire fighting needs. Firefighter safety, interagency cooperation and safe aggressive fire fighting is key to our success.



<u>2014 DNRC Fire Season Statistics</u>	<u># Fires</u>	<u>Acres</u>
County Assist	13	15,442
Direct Protection	265	544
Total Fires	278	15,986
52% Human; 45% Lightning; 3% Unknown		
Mutual Aid	60	
False Alarms	58	
Total Incidents	396	
% of Direct Protection Fires < 10 acres	98%	
Homes Lost	0	

Mission

We protect lives, property and natural resources on state and private lands by providing resources, leadership and coordination to ensure safe and aggressive fire suppression.

**Estimated State Fire Cost for the 2014 Season is \$2.7 million**



*This report summarizes the fire season from the perspective of the Montana DNRC and includes information about fire statistics, aviation, suppression, prevention, training, safety, finances, and Incident management teams.*



Wood Creek Fire, Garrison Wildfire Initial Attack Station, July

## FIRE PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

DNRC's program objectives are to raise awareness, be a resource, educate, and change behavior with regards to reducing human caused wildfires and safety in Montana's wildland urban interface. This year's efforts include: a \$6,000 statewide equipment fire prevention media campaign with BLM and MT Broad casting Network; 2,710 public contacts and distribution of materials; 83 public meetings events; 38 community & home assessments; 43 media contacts and news releases; and the maintenance of 175 prevention signs.

**AVIATION** The Aviation program logged 597 flight hours and delivered approximately 1,020,000 gallons of water and fire retardant. Five MT-205 helicopters are the work horses of the program. During the summer the ships are stationed in Missoula, Kalispell and Helena. Two are available statewide for initial attack support. The aviation staff is made up of six full-time mechanics, four full-time pilots, and 15 seasonal pilots.

**NORTHWEST COMPACT & MONTANA NATIONAL GUARD** The DNRC utilizes additional help through agreements with neighboring states and Canada under the Northwest Compact. In 2014 one engine was provided as part of a Northwest Compact Strike Team that assisted the State of Washington. In addition, the Montana Army National Guard supported the State of Washington with two type-1 CH-47 helicopters and aviation support personnel. The helicopters and crews were deployed twice through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) to assist Washington in suppressing several large fires.

- 14 counties implemented Stage I Fire Restrictions, 1 county went into Stage II Fire Restrictions
- Severity funding totaled \$176,771

## NORTHERN ROCKIES INTERAGENCY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAMS

The DNRC is committed to involvement with the Northern Rockies Interagency Incident Management Teams (IMTs). When wildfires exceed local management capabilities, IMTs are called upon to provide assistance. This year Northern Rockies IMTs went on 12 assignments. Team assignments totaled 136 days, with an average of 12 days on assignment per team member. Two assignments were in Montana, one in California, three in Washington, two in Oregon and four in Idaho.

## COUNTY ASSIST TEAM "CAT"

The DNRC also sponsors an all hazard IMT. The team was originally formed in 1990 to help rural and volunteer fire departments with wildfires when the local initial forces became stretched beyond their resource level. This year the CAT team was assigned to the 215 acre Log Gulch Fire, northeast of Helena in August. The team also hosted a spring training in Miles City where 250 participants engaged in a training exercise using live fire.

**EQUIPMENT DEVELOPMENT CENTER** Of the 28 fire engines the Equipment Development Center built 20 were delivered to fire departments in the following counties: Beaverhead, Blaine, Carbon, Carter, Fergus, Garfield, Jefferson, Madison, McCone, Meagher, Musselshell, Pondera, Sweet Grass, Roosevelt, Sheridan and Yellowstone.

"We greatly appreciate the early detection and initial attack program the DNRC has in place and the professionalism of your team."

—F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co.



Winifred Fire Dept. in Fergus County receives a DNRC water tender

"We are very appreciative of DNRC's assistance at our recent community event as we work to become more knowledgeable about wildland fire safety."

—Paul Okerberg, Big Mtn. Fire District

## TOP PRIORITY: SAFETY

21 injuries reported  
10 fewer than 2013

Causes of injuries/illnesses:

- Bodily Reaction 12
- Heat Related Illness 1
- Insect Bite 4
- Vegetation 2
- Struck By 1
- Slip/Trip/Fall 1



Saw training

## TRAINING

DNRC offered 226 wildfire, incident management, and leadership training courses in 2014 to 3,296 students.

- 1,309 DNRC students
- 1,645 Local Gov. students
- 342 Federal students
- 11 Other students

## EQUIPMENT

The DNRC Equipment Development Center acquired \$2.6 million worth of federal property and built 28 fire engines

- 23 type 5 engines
- 3 type 4 engines
- 2 type 2 water tenders
- 30 pump panels & flatbeds
- 20 pump heads

