

CHAPTER 350: COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

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351 OBJECTIVES

Engaging in cooperative agreements allows the DNRC to cooperate with other public agencies and the private sector in order to best facilitate the DNRC's mission.

Cooperative agreements are written to accomplish such objectives as:

1. Cooperate with other public agencies in prescribed fire activities and in preventing, detecting, and suppressing wildland fires in intermingled and adjacent lands.
2. Provide DNRC assistance to cooperating counties in planning, organizing, equipping, training, and operating county wildland fire protection programs.
3. Provide for DNRC facility use on ground space owned by others.

352 RESPONSIBILITIES

When assigned, the Incident Management Team Finance Section Chief need not be concerned with cooperative agreements in total but should be informed by the responsible Land Office of those provisions in any relevant local agreements that may have a bearing on incident business management and related record-keeping.

The Incident Management Team Finance Section Chief is responsible to the Incident Commander (IC) for obtaining all relevant existing local agreement provisions and for ensuring compliance with those agreement items pertaining to finance. The IC may assign other relevant agreement provisions to other sections of the fire organization.

Land Offices in turn are responsible for maintaining a current and complete file of any locally negotiated and/or locally applicable agreements; for determining the applicability of any existing agreements to a given fire area; and for advising the Incident Management Team Finance Section Chief of any relevant agreement provisions.

353 AGREEMENTS IN FORCE

DNRC agreements in force are fully summarized in the DNRC Fire Authorization – 200 Manual, Sections 204 - 207. (See listing on following page.)

A. State of Montana Agreements

+ Montana Cooperative Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement

This agreement documents the commitment of the agencies to improve wildland fire management by facilitating the increased availability of resources including but not limited to: the exchange of personnel, equipment, supplies, services, and funds among the agencies in accordance with this agreement.

+ Memorandum of Understanding between Montana Department of Transportation and Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Agreement to provide DNRC with resources that facilitate reasonably safe and efficient movement of road users through or around temporary traffic control zones created by incident management activities, while reasonably protecting workers, incident management responders and equipment.

+ Memorandum of Understanding between National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis, college of Forestry and Conservation, University of Montana and Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Agreement to cooperate and coordinate between the parties concerning wildland and prescribed fire training, certification and analysis.

+ Interagency Agreement between the Montana Department of Corrections and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Agreement with DOC to provide DNRC with an inmate crew to assist in the suppression of wildland fires.

+ Fire Protection Agreement Between State of Montana, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Great Plains Region

Agreement to provide prevention and control of wildland fires on 2,776 acres of Bureau of Reclamation land.

+ Fire Protection Agreement Between State of Montana, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation

The Salish and Kootenai Tribes agree to provide wildland fire protection on approximately 133,628 acres of state and private land that is within Tribal boundaries.

✚ **Memorandum of Agreement between the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Montana Sheriffs (MS) and Peace Officers Association (POA)**

Agreement that enables the MS and POA to provide law enforcement officers to assist DNRC in the event of a need for large scale evacuations of the public in situations in which a local jurisdiction is overwhelmed.

✚ **Montana State-County Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement**

This agreement is a cooperative fire control agreement with all 56 counties within the State of Montana. The agreement enables the state to provide organizational, financial and planning assistance, equipment, and training to the county. The county in turn will protect all state and private lands within the county from wildland fire.

✚ **Montana FEMA-STATE Agreement for the Fire Management Assistance Grant Program**

This agreement allows the state to be eligible for funds through the Fire Management Assistance Grant Program.

✚ **Northwest Wildland Fire Protection Agreement (Northwest Compact)**

This agreement allows the state to receive assistance in prevention, preparedness (pre-suppression) and control of wildland fires between the member agencies of the Northwest Compact.

✚ **Memorandum of Agreement Between Montana Department of Military Affairs, Montana National Guard and Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Forestry Division**

Agreement with the Montana National Guard to provide DNRC with support and resources to suppress wildland fires once a Governor's emergency is declared.

✚ **Memorandum of Understanding between the Forestry Division and the Trust Lands Management Division, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation**

Agreement with DNRC Trust Lands Division to provide support and staff to assist in the suppression of wildland fires.

✚ **The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)**

EMAC was established to allow interstate assistance by establishing written agreements between member states to provide assistance in managing any emergency or disaster that is declared by the Governor.

+ Operating Plan for Montana, South Dakota and North Dakota Fire Assistance

Agreement to provide assistance to one another in time of extreme fire danger, when fire suppression resources within one state have been exhausted or in the case of boundary line fires.

+ Interstate Mutual Aid Compact between the State of Idaho and the State of Montana

Agreement among participating states to provide voluntary assistance in responding to any disaster or imminent disaster that overextends the ability of local and state governments to reduce, counteract, or remove the danger.

+ Interstate Mutual Aid Compact between the States of Montana and Washington

Agreement among participating states to provide voluntary assistance in responding to any disaster or imminent disaster that overextends the ability of local and state governments to reduce, counteract, or remove the danger.

+ Montana-Idaho Interagency Smoke Management Coordination Strategy

Agreement to implement the Montana/Idaho Air Shed Group Operating Guide and share responsibility for minimizing or preventing smoke impacts to communities when using fire to accomplish land management objectives.

Many of these agreements can be found on the DNRC Fire Protection, Fire Business website: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/fire-and-aviation/fire-business/agreements-plans-and-guides>.

*** Note: Additional agreements may be in place at local administrative units to accommodate local needs.