

## Definitions and Terminology

**The following terms may be found within the language surrounding fire protection assessment concepts. The following definitions will apply to these select terms:**

### Affidavit

Sworn, notarized statement of landowner's inability to protect their own land from wildland fire and their willingness to pay for protection.

### Assessment

A fee for services rendered; a charge for fire protection; not a tax.

### Board

Refers to the Board of Land Commissioners provided for in [Article X, Section 4](#), of the Montana Constitution. Board consists of the Governor, Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Secretary of State and State Auditor.

### Forest Fire

A fire burning uncontrolled on forest lands.

### Forest Land

Forest land, for fire protection purposes, is defined in [76-13-102\(3\)](#), MCA as land which has enough timber, standing or down, slash or brush to constitute, in the judgment of the Department, a fire menace to life or property. Grassland and agricultural areas are included when those areas are intermingled with or contiguous to and no further than one-half mile from areas of forest land

[Administrative Rule \(ARM\) 36.10.101](#) further defines "Forested Lands"

### Non-assessed

Those landowners who pay under a separate contractual agreement directly to the Protection Agency and not via the fire assessment roll. At present the only non-assessed on the assessment rolls are State of Montana Lands and State of Montana Forests.

### Non-forest Land Agreement

Sworn, notarized statement of landowner's inability to protect their own land or improvements from fire and their willingness to pay for wildfire protection on lands that are classified as non-forest.

### Owner

The person, firm, association, or corporation having the actual, beneficial ownership of forest land or timber other than an easement, right-of-way, or mineral reservation

### Protection Agency

That agency or organization recognized by the State as having fire protection responsibilities for a particular forest area.

Wildfire

Unplanned, unwanted fire burning uncontrolled on wildland and consuming vegetative fuels.

Wildland Fire Affidavit Protection Unit

A land area defined by the Department where owners can voluntarily sign up for wildland fire protection through the Department and are protected by recognized protection agency.

Wildland Fire Protection District

A definite forest land area, the boundaries of which are fixed and wherein fire protection is provided through the medium of an agency recognized by the board.