



COST SHARE AGREEMENT
Between the
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Plains Unit, Northwest Land Office
And the
DOI Bureau of Indian Affairs
Flathead Agency, Northwest Region

This cost share agreement is between the agencies identified above, as negotiated for the following incident in accordance with the 2023-2027 Montana Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement, 23C00443300, executed between the parties on January 26, 2023. The purpose of this agreement is to allocate financial responsibility and to describe the cost division.

General Incident Information:

Incident Name:	Knowles, MT-NWS-250543	
Incident Start Date and Time:	8/17/2025 1500	
Origin: DNRC	47.346967	-114.713300
Township: 18N	Section: 6	Range: 24W
Estimated Size	Acres at the time of this agreement: 2,300	
Incident Cause:	Undetermined	

Incident Numbers by Protection Agency:

Agency	Incident #	Accounting Code
MT DNRC	MT-NWS-250543	905487
DOI BIA	MT-NWS-250543	S811

Cost Share Period:

This agreement becomes effective on the date indicated below and will remain in effect until it is amended or terminated.

Start date/time: 8/17/2025 @ 1500

End date/time: End of incident

Other conditions related to this agreement:

1. Costs incurred by cooperators not engaged with the host agency or Incident Management Team (IMT) in the fire suppression activities will not be included as a part of this cost share agreement.
2. Responsibility for tort claim costs will not be a part of this agreement. Responsibility for these costs will be determined outside this agreement.



3. Agency specific costs will not be shared.
4. Costs for accountable, sensitive, and durable property purchased by each agency will be charged directly to that agency and will not be shared.
5. Non-suppression rehabilitation costs are the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency and will not be shared.
6. Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) Tribal/Indian preference hiring will be utilized for all divisions on tribal trust lands. BIA Northwest Regional Office will process contractor payments for all identified tribal preference vendors.
7. Each agency (including supporting agencies) will bill for their costs as outlined in the Montana Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Response Agreement billing procedures.

Protecting Agencies' Strategies:

The strategy for all Agencies associated with this incident is full suppression utilizing direct and indirect tactics including perimeter control.

Cost Share Methodology and Rationale:

Cost Share Methodology: Acres Burned

The final percentages will be based on the final acres burned by protection on the date the fire is declared out. Due to the point of origin and the initial rate of fire growth, the fire was an immediate threat to neighboring tribal lands and the decision was made to use the actual acreage burned in each agency's protection due to equal effort expended on all areas of the incident. The daily 209 will include a delineation of acres burned by protecting agency in the narrative. Costs to be shared include all costs associated with the management of the incident including aviation, procurement including contracts/agreements and consumable supplies, personnel, fleet and suppression repair based on protecting agency suppression repair standards. Post incident recovery and rehabilitation costs will be paid by the respective protecting agency and are not included in this cost share.

The final cost share percentage will be applied to all actual expenses per Agency transaction registers (financial reports) to determine the total amount owed by each Agency.

Total Final Acres:	
DNRC:	
BIA:	

Final Agency Apportionment:

Federal Share:

USFS	%
BLM	%
FWS	%
NPS	%
BIA	%

State Share:

DNRC	%
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Principal Contacts:

The following personnel are the principal contacts:

Title:	Name:	Agency:
Agency Administrator	Nick Aschenwald	MT DNRC
Agency Representative	David Olsen	MT DNRC
Agency Administrator	Dawn Davis	DOI BIA
Agency Representative	Paul Ryan	DOI BIA
Agency Representative	Ron Swaney	CKST
Incident Business Advisor(s)	Colette Morgan	MT DNRC
	Amanda Boatright	DOI BIA
	Regina Hoffmann	DOI BIA
Incident Commander(s)	Shane Martin	NR IMT 9
Other IMT members as appropriate	Helen White, FSC3	NR IMT 9

Signatures of Authorized Personnel & Attachments:

This agreement and the apportionment described are our best judgments of fair and equitable agency cost responsibilities.

Approved By:

Nick Aschenwald
Area Operations Manager, Northwest Land Office
Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation

Dawn Davis
Agency Superintendent, Flathead Agency
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Addendums to this Document:

Map of fire area with protection layer
Final 209 with Acreage by protection agency