

MONTANA

DNRC



Forestry Division

Fire and Aviation

Management Bureau

DNRC 600 Manual

Section 604

**State/County Cooperative
Fire Program**

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604 STATE/COUNTY COOPERATIVE FIRE PROGRAM

A. DESCRIPTION OF COOPERATIVE FIRE COUNTY

The State/County Cooperative Fire program is a lower intensity of fire protection than that of the Forest Fire District, Affidavit Unit, or Non-Forest Contract. The boundary of the protection unit is the individual county boundary, and involves all of the state and private forest lands within the county that are not within a Forest Fire District, under Affidavit within an Affidavit Unit, or under a Non-Forest Contract. Federal or tribal lands are normally provided fire protection by their respective federal or tribal agencies. A State/County Co-op. Fire Program is formed when the county signs a cooperative agreement with the State (see **Appendix #1 - Cooperative Fire Control Agreement**).

The county provides the basic level of fire protection through a system of volunteers and county personnel from Rural Fire Districts (RFDs), Fire Service Areas (FSAs), and Volunteer Fire Companies (VFCs) that are organized under a County Rural Fire Department (Co. RFD). Membership in the County Rural Fire Council (or its equivalent), would serve the same function. The county is supported by the State in matters of organization, planning, equipment, prevention, training, and fire suppression support. Forest landowners in a cooperating county meet the basic requirements for adequate protection as specified in the state statutes (**MCA 76-13-136**).

The County Cooperative Fire program provides an additional spin-off advantage to the county landowner by protecting non-forest watershed lands in addition to forest lands.

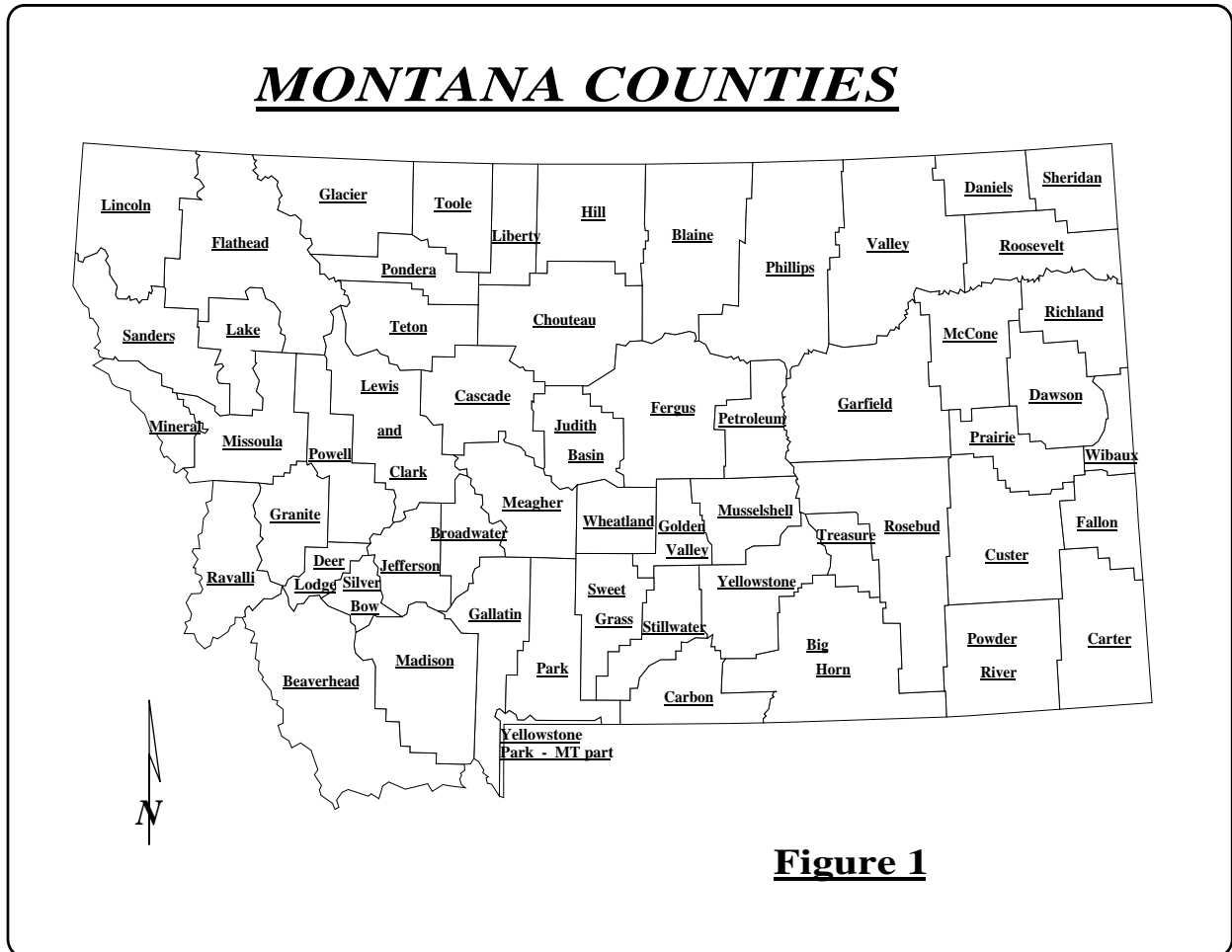
B. STATE COOPERATIVE FIRE COUNTIES (Figure 1 is a map of Montana's Counties)

NOTE: With the acceptance of Missoula, Granite, and Mineral Counties (7/1/97), all 56 counties are enrolled in the State/County Co-op. Fire program. Listed counties are in the order they first entered:

<u>County</u>	<u>Date Entered</u>
MEAGHER	1967
BROADWATER	1969
GALLATIN	1969
WHEATLAND	1969
CASCADE	1970
CHOUTEAU	1970
GLACIER	1970
GOLDEN VALLEY	1970

<u>County</u>	<u>Date Entered</u>
HILL	1970
LEWIS & CLARK	1970
LIBERTY	1970
PARK	1970
PONDERA	1970
SILVER BOW	1970
TOOLE	1970
FALLON	1972
PRAIRIE	1972
YELLOWSTONE	1973
DAWSON	1974
TETON	1977
BIG HORN	1979
CUSTER	1979
DANIELS	1979
JEFFERSON	1979
ROOSEVELT	1979
SWEET GRASS	1979
BEAVERHEAD	1981
BLAINE	1981
CARTER	1981
MCCONE	1981
POWDER RIVER	1981
RICHLAND	1981
SHERIDAN	1981
STILLWATER	1981
WIBAUX	1981
CARBON	1985
FERGUS	1985
GARFIELD	1985
JUDITH BASIN	1985
MADISON	1985
MUSSELSHELL	1985
PETROLEUM	1985
PHILLIPS	1985
ROSEBUD	1985
TREASURE	1985
VALLEY	1985
DEER LODGE	1989
FLATHEAD	1989
RAVALLI	1989
LAKE	1992
LINCOLN	1992

<u>County</u>	<u>Date Entered</u>
SANDERS	1992
POWELL	1995
GRANITE	1997
MINERAL	1997
MISSOULA	1997



C. STATE/COUNTY CO-OP. FIRE PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Counties entered the State/County Cooperative Fire program upon acceptance of an entry proposal from the county by the Legislature or the Department. The program is designed to provide the minimal level of adequate wildland fire protection to all state- and privately-owned lands in the county that are not covered by a higher level of protection. The county may also wish to encourage federal participation and protect intermingled federal lands if the county possesses the firefighting capabilities.

1. **Obligations of State and County**

The agreement between the State and the cooperative county obligates each to certain items.

The State shall:

- Assist in organizing the county fire forces.
- Prepare fire management plans & update operating plans annually.
- Provide wildland fire training.
- Develop equipment to meet wildland fire management plan requirements.
- Inspect State fire equipment placed in the county.
- Assist in suppression activities beyond the capabilities of the county (see **Appendix #2 - Fully Committed Guidelines**).

The County shall (see Appendix #3 - Rural Fire Protection 7-33 part 22 MCA):

- Provide for the organization of volunteer rural fire control crews.
- Provide for the formation of county volunteer fire companies (organized under a County Rural Fire Department).
- Supervise the Co-op. Fire program in the county.
- Appoint a County Rural Fire Chief (County Firewarden) and such district rural fire chiefs, as needed.
- Maintain equipment placed by the State into the county (see **Appendix #4 - Cooperative Equipment Agreement**).
- Provide for the organization of the county fire forces under a county-wide fire entity such as a Fire Council, Protective Association, etc., to help establish protection system/areas.
- Suppress fires on state and private land.

The County may:

- Establish fire seasons.
- Issue burning permits.
- Levy a tax up to 2 mills or at a rate that will raise \$15,000, whichever is higher.
- Establish fire restrictions within their boundaries.

2. **Means of Entering the Program** [As all counties are now in the program, this is for future reference in case of withdrawal and re-entry.]

- The Land Office receives an indication that a county may be interested in the fire program.
- The Land Office should prepare a County Historical Record Log (**F-604**) for the county.
- The Land Office or Unit should then meet with the County Commissioners and other key individuals in the county (Sheriff, Fire Chiefs, large landowners) to confirm the county's desire to upgrade their fire protection.
- Explain the fire program to this group, and show them examples of work being done in other counties.
- Assist the county in holding public meetings to further explain the program to landowners, Rural Fire Districts, Fire Service Areas, Volunteer Fire Companies, and other fire control agencies.
- With the county's assistance, prepare an entry request (**see Outline – County Entry Request on page 604-18 ; samples available from Fire & Aviation Management Bureau**) for submission by the county to the Legislature.

3. **Preparation of County Cooperative Fire Management Plan for Counties in Cooperative Fire Program**

- The Land Office or Unit should meet with key fire control people in the county and help them prepare a rough outline of initial attack areas in the county, which must be organized under either a RFD, FSA, or a Co. RFD. Beware of making too many attack areas to begin with; try to include approximately 100,000 to 200,000 acres in each area. (You

may wish to have some boundaries correspond to RFD, FSA boundaries in the initial stages.)

- Work with the County Commissioners to establish a County Rural Fire Council and appoint a County Rural Fire Chief (Firewarden, Rural Fire Coordinator, etc.).
- Prepare, with the assistance of the Rural Fire Council, a Fire Management Plan for the county (**see Sample #1 - Cooperative Fire Management Plan**).
- Present the Fire Management Plan to the County Commissioners for review, revision, and approval.
- Obtain a signed cooperative agreement (**F-200**) as part of the plan.
- Upon approval of the plan, forward copies to the Land Office, Forestry Division, County, and any other signatories. This plan normally does not need updating annually.

NOTE: The Fire Management Plan should be a cooperative effort of all the agencies that participate in fighting wildland fire in the county. An attached Annual Operating Plan would be the document that would contain the information that will probably change annually. An Interagency Annual Operating Plan is a slightly different document, usually signed by the State and its federal cooperators, though nothing precludes the Local Government fire agencies (Co-op. Counties) from becoming signatory. As an example, some DNRC Area Offices will probably choose to have an Interagency Annual Operating Plan with the BLM, for instance, and have a separate Cooperative Fire Management Plan with each one of their counties, and just make these attachments to the Interagency Operating Plan.

4. **Operation of the County Fire Program and Annual Operating Plan**

- a. The ultimate responsibility for the Co-op. Fire program in a county is with the County Commissioners, but normal operations usually occur through the work of the County Rural Fire Council and the County Rural Fire Chief (also called Firewarden, Rural Fire Coordinator, etc.). The county firewarden is the liaison between the fire council and the County Commissioners. The DNRC and other wildland fire agencies (USFS, BLM, BIA) provide advisory service to the Council. The Council may also wish to include Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) District and County representation, as advisors. It's possible to create an interagency organization, such as a Fire Protective Association, where all agencies involved in fire suppression within a county (federal,

state and tribal, as well as local government) would be members, work together, and sign off on an Interagency Annual Operating Plan.

- b. Using the **outline in Sample #1** as an aid, and with the assistance of the county, the state will prepare an annual operating plan which schedules training (or lists opportunities for training), placement of equipment, planned prevention activities, etc. (see **Appendix B in Sample #1 and Sample #2**).
- c. The state will provide copies of the annual operating plan to all parties involved.
- d. A local state representative and the county rural fire chief will attend regularly scheduled meetings of the County Rural Fire Council /Fire Protective Association and encourage participation by other advisory fire agencies.

5. **Assistance to the County During Critical Situations**

The organization and planning done in each county should also be aimed at keeping the Area (Land Office) Manager, or designated representative, aware of current fire situations in the county. A warning system should be set up to give adequate lead time on any critical fire situation that might exceed the county's capabilities to suppress it. The Land Office may provide technical assistance to a county to avert a critical situation. Such assistance can be provided by the Land Office without Department approval.

If this system operates properly, the local Land Office, Interagency Dispatch/Zone Support Center, Northern Rockies Coordination Center, and County Commissioners should be currently informed on any potential need for assistance to any given county. Upon receiving a request from a county for suppression support (beyond initial attack or mutual aid limitations):

- a. Determine whether the situation does in fact exceed the county's capabilities. (**You may want to use Appendix #2 as a guide.**)
- b. If the county does need additional support, place the order for support with the appropriate dispatch office (see **Appendix #5 - Flow Chart of Zone Mobilization/ Dispatch System**). Include in your order those needs that can be filled at the Land Office or Unit level.
- c. Immediately request the Firewarden or County Commissioners to call the local Area Manager or designated representative with a

verbal request for assistance, and that the Commissioners follow this up with a written request for this same assistance to the Forestry Division Administrator. (A "written request" *must* be received within 48 hours of the verbal request for assistance.)

- d. Support will be given upon receipt by the appropriate dispatch office of this verbal request from those entities mentioned above, *and* approval/confirmation from the local Land Office. If DNRC determines that it is in the best interest of the State to provide assistance immediately due to a rapidly escalating situation, we will do so and catch up with verbal and written requests after the fact. It must be pointed out, however, that the county's written request *must* be received soon after support activities begin (preferably within 24 hours).

6. **Program Funding**

The State-Co-op. County Fire Program is supported through various avenues of funding:

a. **State Funds**

The State will fund the State's activities as outlined in the Fire Management Plan. Suppression assistance will not be billed to Co-op. Counties if they maintain good standing in the program, have a current signed agreement, and remain committed.

b. **County and Local Funds**

The county, Rural Fire Districts, Fire Service Areas, Co. RFD's, and local landowners will provide the services outlined in the fire management plan through normal funds, or through volunteer labor and donations. No interchange of local and State funds is required.

c. **Federal Assistance**

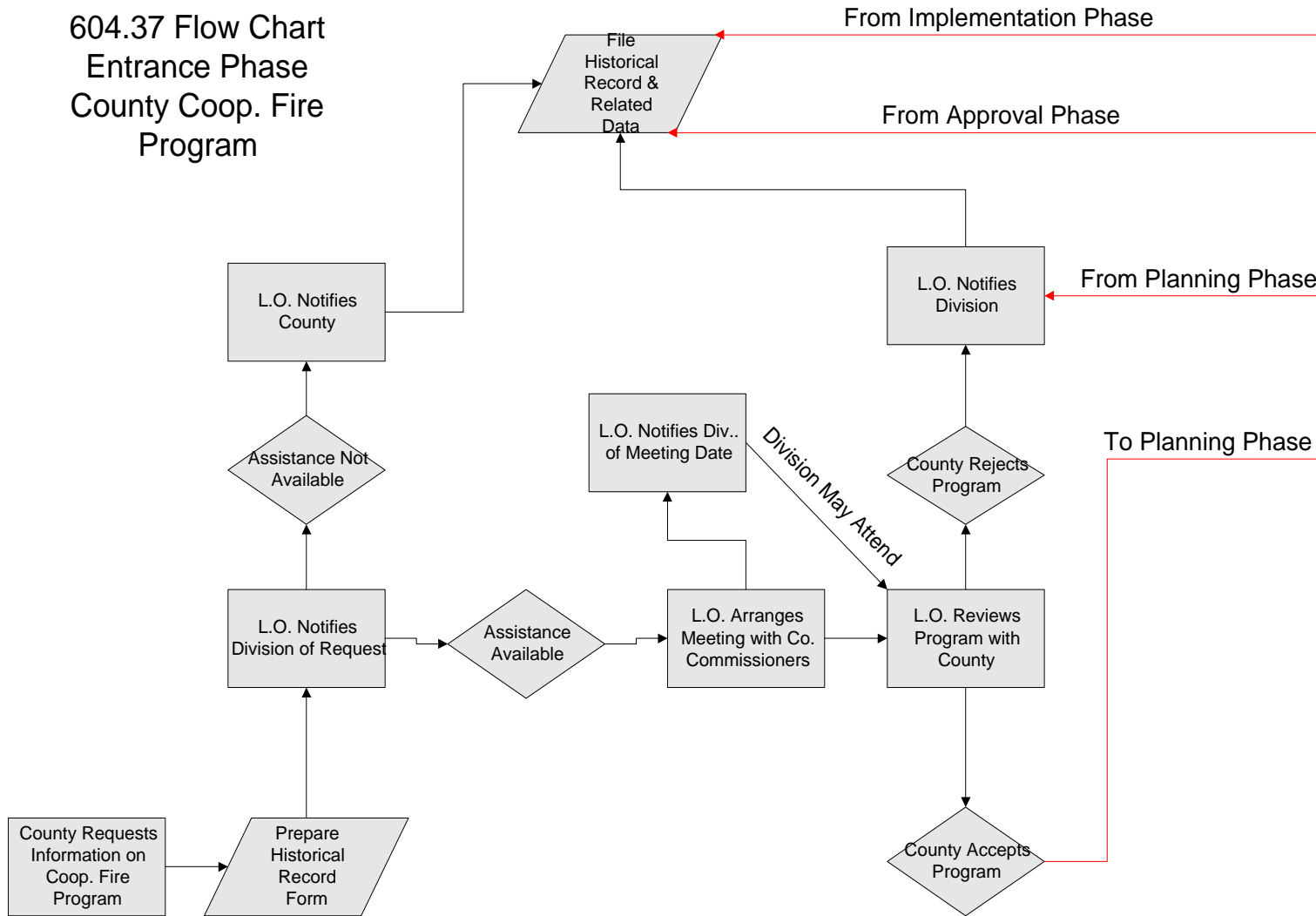
If federal lands receive the benefit of county protection, they may want to assist by placing selected pieces of fire equipment in the county. They also may wish to assist in training of county firefighters.

Counties may draft mutual aid agreements with local federal fire agencies. State-owned equipment may be covered by such an agreement, but cannot be used to raise funds for the county. The county can recover their costs of operating the State equipment (i.e., fuel, oil, and refurbishing--see NRCG Mobilization of Local

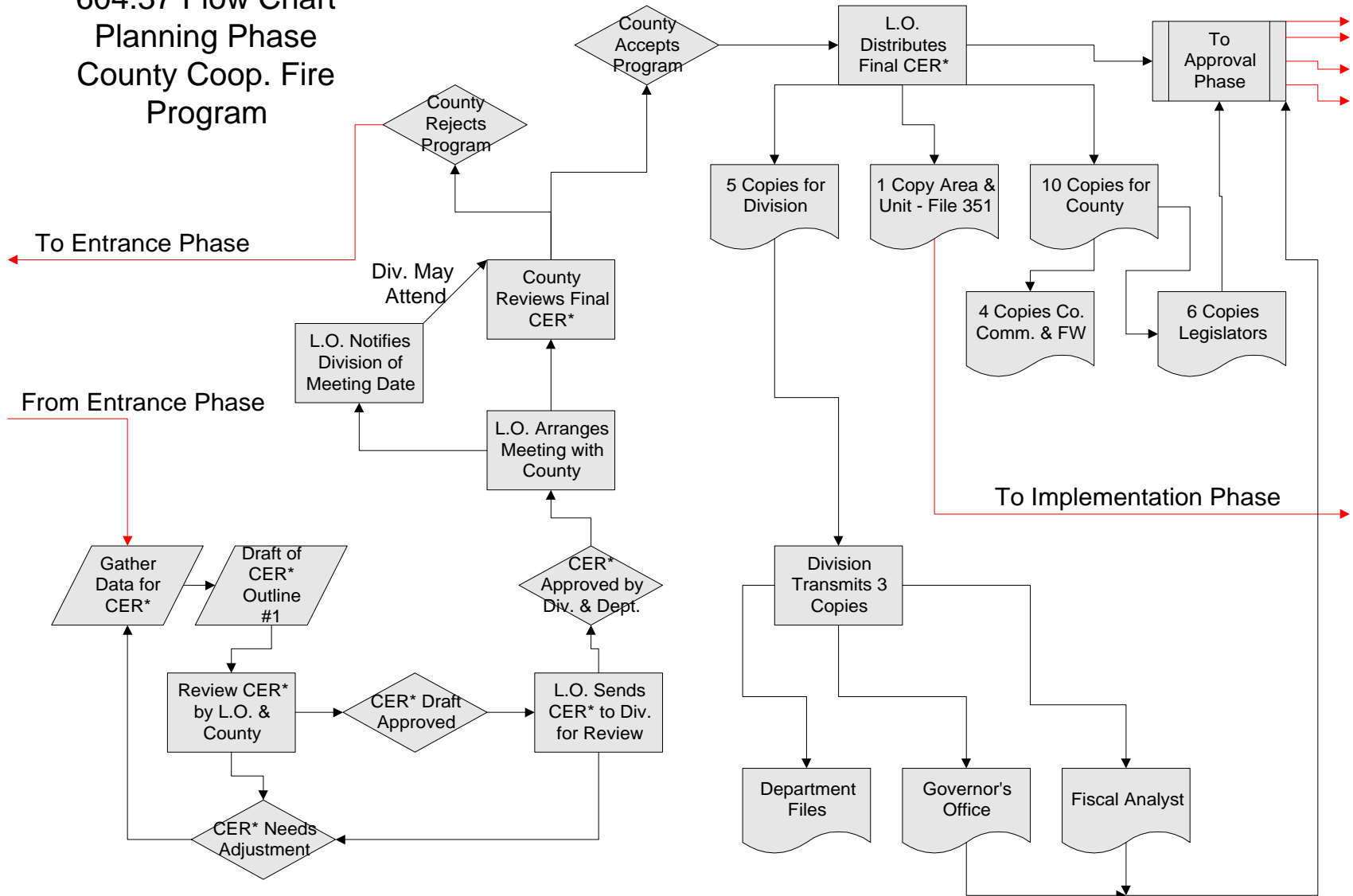
Firefighting Resources guide). NRCG rental rates (if applicable) for DNRC equipment are due to DNRC.

7. Flow Charts -- Entrance, Planning, Approval, Implementation Phases

604.37 Flow Chart
Entrance Phase
County Coop. Fire
Program

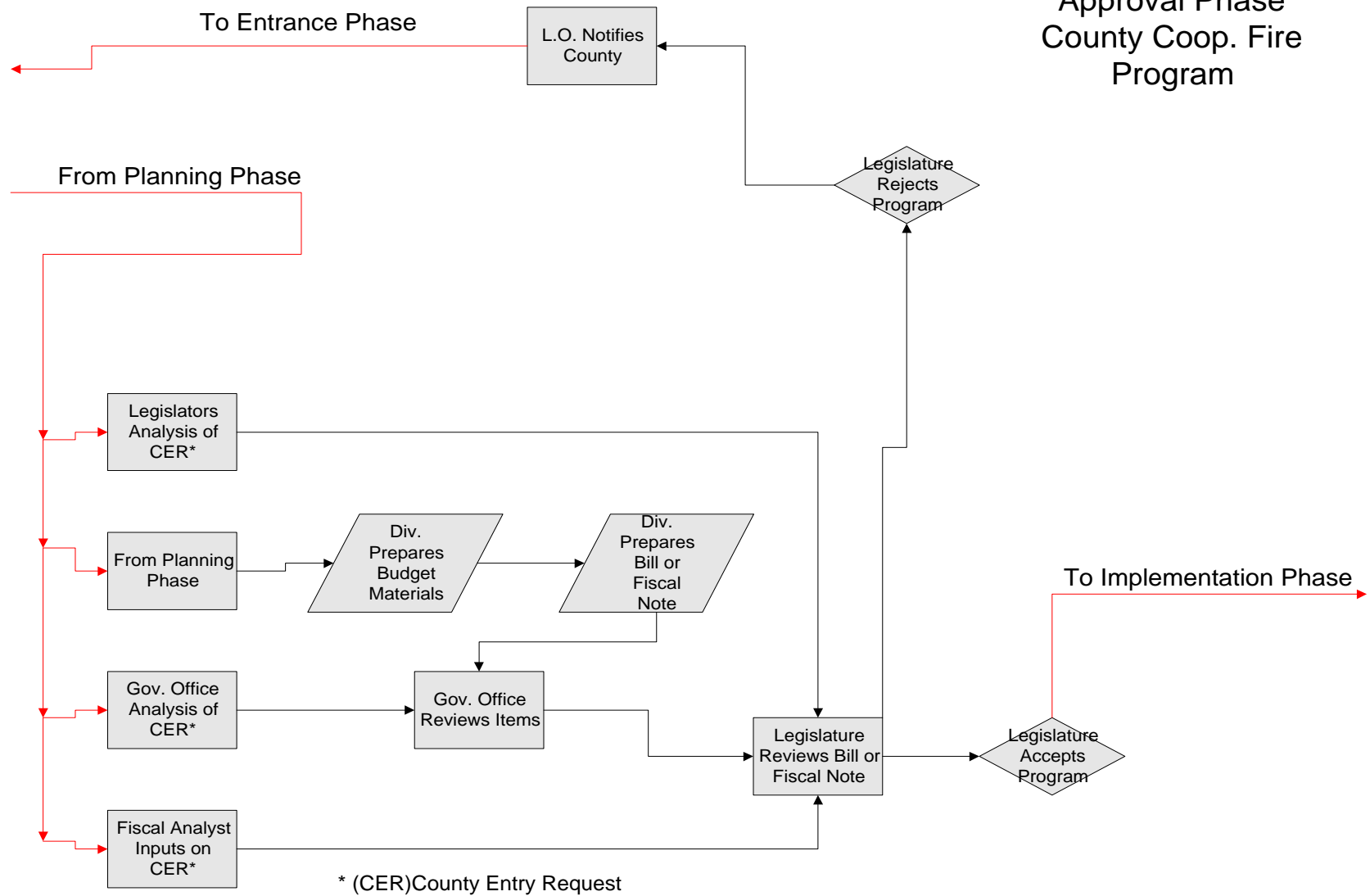


604.37 Flow Chart Planning Phase County Coop. Fire Program

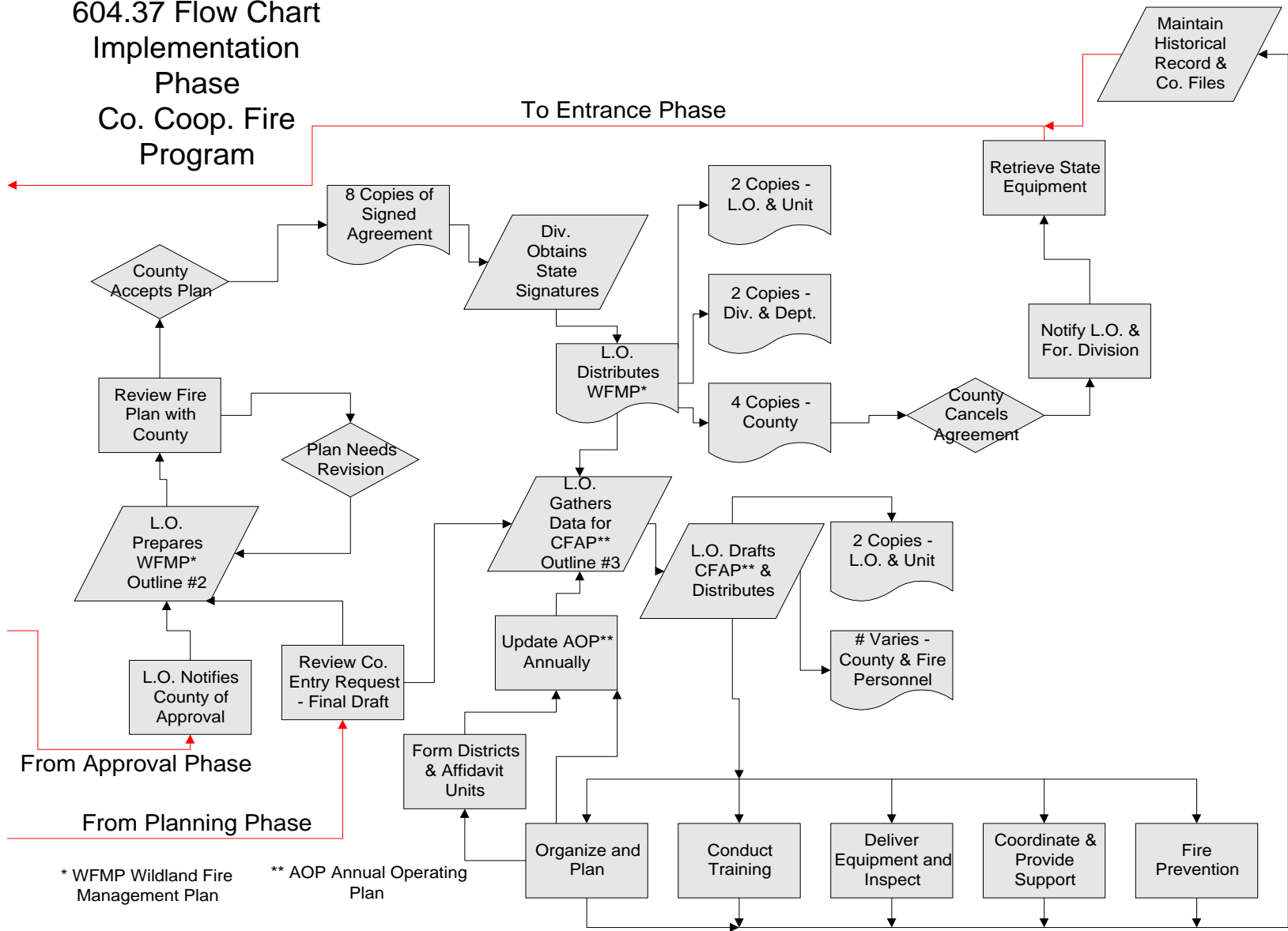


* (CER)County Entry Request

604.37 Flow Chart Approval Phase County Coop. Fire Program



604.37 Flow Chart
Implementation
Phase
Co. Coop. Fire
Program



* WFMP Wildland Fire Management Plan

** AOP Annual Operating Plan

D. COUNTY PLANNING GUIDES

County Entry Request. This plan is assembled by the Land Office for use by the requesting County as its basis for entering the County Cooperative Fire Program. The plan is normally presented by the county to the legislature with a request to enter the program. A fiscal note is normally prepared by the Department to spell out the State costs associated with addition of the county to the program.

If the county is accepted by the Legislature, this plan is filed for future reference and is the basis for preparation of further planning documents.

County Wildland Fire Management Plan (Entry Plan - samples available from Fire Bureau).

NOTE: These plans are already on file for all the counties presently in the program. Counties coming on line in 1997 would be advised to complete a document like the original County Wildland Fire Management Plan, as this information could prove useful to County Commissioners, Firewardens, and other county fire agencies. Areas that already have such a document only have to be concerned with the Cooperative Fire Management Plan - [Sample #1].

The Wildland Fire Management Plan (Entry Plan) is intended as an informational document to be used by the County Commissioners (or county governing body). This document spells out the details of the cooperative arrangement between the County and the State. The material in it should not change very often and therefore should be useable year after year.

New commissioners should be encouraged to review this document to become familiar with the program.

The signed formal agreement (F-200) is a part of this plan.

Cooperative Fire Management Plan [Sample #1]. This is the working document for the county. Land Offices that choose to have this document for each of their counties will probably have an Interagency Annual Operating Plan with their federal cooperators, and this document would become an attachment to this Operating Plan. Other areas could choose to have an Interagency Annual Operation Plan (**Appendix #6 - Annual Operating Plan Outline Guide**) with all entities involved in fire, including DNRC, federal fire agencies and the counties. This might be difficult over a large geographic area, such as is found in the eastern Montana land offices. However it gets done, it's important to have these documents on file and as current as possible. Attached to the Cooperative Fire Management Plan will be an Annual Operating Plan, which is used in this case as an appendix, with all the information that could change on an annual basis.

1. Outline for County Cooperative Fire Program Plans

County Entry Request	Cooperative Fire Management Plan	Annual Operating Plan
	County Fire Laws State/County Coop. Program County Functions State Functions Organization & Planning Co. Rural Fire Council Chart Responsibility Areas (Maps) Initial Attack Areas (Maps) Agreements Annual Operating Plan	
General Description of County Land Ownership Rural & Urban Population Land use in the County	Land Ownership/Protection Responsibilities Maps.	
Fire History & Weather Fire History Weather Patterns		Current Fire History (optional) Trends & Problem Areas
Fire Hazards Forest Fuels Rangeland, Cropland Fuels River Bottom Fuels Other Fuels Fire Risks Human Lightning Values at Risk Forest Products Livestock & Grazing Cropland Structures Industrial Recreation Soil, Air, & Water	Fire Hazards Under Prevention (optional) Fire Risks Under Prevention (optional) Values at Risk Under Prevention (optional)	
Current Firefighting Capability Organization Structural Protection Wildland Protection Private Land State Land Federal Land	County Fire Agencies and Wildland Fire Agencies listed and explained.	County Organization Rural Fire Council Chart Council Phone #-s, Addresses Initial Attack Areas Wildland Fire Agencies Organization Chart (?)

County Entry Request	Cooperative Fire Management Plan	Annual Operating Plan
Training Wildfire Training Structural Training	Wildfire Suppression Training Goals and Objectives	Training Plan Locations, etc. - Basic Locations, etc. - Inter., Advan. NRCG, other agency classes
Fire Prevention Educational Measures Engineering Measures Enforcement Measures	Fire Prevention (see above) Forest Fire Rules & Regs. Open Burning Restrictions Burning Permits Closures	Fire Prevention Plan (optional) Radio, TV, School Visits Plowing, Burning Forest Fire Rules & Regs.
Detection, Reporting, & Comm. Detection Cooperators-Landowners Aerial Detection Reporting Procedures	Detection, Reporting, & Comm. Dispatch Centers and agency cooperation. Reporting Procedures Internal Co. Communications County-State Communications	Detection, Reporting, & Comm. Frequency List Plan Reporting Emergency Phone Numbers County Fire Departments Federal Fire Agencies Misc. Cooperators State Phone Numbers Other Federal Agencies
Presuppression Transportation Systems Roads, Airstrips Manpower & Equipment Local Fire Department County Private Sources Other Agencies	Presuppression Desired Level of State and County participation Other Agency Coordination Inspections Report on Veh. Inspections Regulations Use of State Equipment	Presuppression Plan [List of State-owned and County-owned Equipment Manpower List Equipment List] (optional) [Preventive Maintenance Schedule] (optional)
Suppression Dispatching & Initial Attack Coordination & Support	Suppression State Assist - Noncritical Fires State Support - Project Fire Chart & How to Obtain	Suppression Plan How to Coord. within County How to Coord. w/other Co.=s How to obtain State Advice Types of State Support Other Agency Support
Funding County Funds		

County Entry Request	Cooperative Fire Management Plan	Annual Operating Plan
Rural Fire Funds Volunteer Efforts		
Protection Needs Organization & Planning Training Fire Prevention Detection, Reporting, & Communications Presuppression Suppression		
Proposed Fiscal Plan County Costs State Costs Combined Costs		
	Records Fire Marshall=s 901 Other State Programs (optional) RCFP RFD Formation Hazard Reduction Air Quality	
<u>Prepared for:</u> New Counties Entering Prog.	Counties New in Program & Every Five (5) Years (When Used in Place Of, or as an Attachment to, an Interagency Annual Operation Plan).	All Counties in Coop. Program As Attachment to Cooperative Fire Management Plan (When Used in Place Of, or as an Attachment to, an Interagency Annual Operation Plan).
<u>Number of Copies:</u> For County Commissioners, And State Use Only	Copies to All Signatory Parties, Fire Bureau (RFC), County Commissioners, Local Dispatch Centers, and Other Concerned Agencies.	Attached to Cooperative Fire Management Plan, Updates to All Signatories to Plan, Fire Bureau (RFC), Local Dispatch Centers, and Any Other Concerned Agency.

2. **Outline - County Entry Request**

(Samples available from Fire Bureau - Rural Fire Coordinator)

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY

- A. Land Ownership
- B. Rural & Urban Population
- C. Land Uses

II. FIRE HISTORY AND WEATHER PATTERNS

- A. Fire History
- B. Weather Patterns

III. FIRE HAZARDS, RISKS AND VALUES AT RISK

- A. Fire Hazards
 - 1. Forest Fuels
 - 2. Rangeland
 - 3. Cropland
 - 4. River Bottoms
 - 5. Other
 - 6. Hazard Ratings
- B. Fire Risk
 - 1. Human
 - 2. Lightning
- C. Values at Risk from Fire
 - 1. Forest Products
 - 2. Livestock & Grazing
 - 3. Cropland
 - 4. Structures--Rural Residences & Communities
 - 5. Industrial, Utilities & Railroads
 - 6. Recreational, Aesthetics and Wildlife
 - 7. Soil, Air and Water Quality

VI. CURRENT FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITY OF THE COUNTY

A. Organization

1. Structural Fire Protection
2. Wildland Fire Protection
3. Privately-Owned and Tribal Lands
4. State-Owned Lands
5. Federally-Owned Lands

B. Training

1. Structural Fire Training
2. Wildland Fire Training

C. Fire Prevention

1. Educational Measures
2. Engineering Measures
3. Enforcement Measures
4. Detection, Reporting & Communications
 - a. Detection
 - 1) Cooperators & Landowners
 - 2) Aerial
 - b. Reporting Procedures
 - c. Communications Systems
 - 1) Telephone
 - 2) Radio

- D. Presuppression
 - 1. Transportation Systems
 - a. Roads
 - b. Airstrips
 - 2. Manpower & Equipment
 - a. Local Fire Departments & Companies
 - b. County
 - c. Private
 - d. Other Agencies

- E. Suppression
 - 1. Dispatching and Initial Attack
 - 2. Coordination and Support
 - 3. Cooperative Agreements
 - 4. Disaster Planning

- F. Funding
 - 1. County Funds
 - 2. Rural Dept. Funds
 - 3. Volunteer Efforts

V. PROTECTION NEEDS

- A. Organization and Planning
- B. Training
- C. Fire Prevention
- D. Detection, Reporting and Communications

E. Presuppression

F. Suppression

VI. PROPOSED FISCAL PLAN

A. County Expenditures

B. State Expenditures

C. Combined State and County Expenditures

NOTE: These Plans are in place in almost all counties, with the Coop. Fire Management Plan, as exemplified in Sample #1, being the preferred form for future updating!

APPENDIX #1
COOPERATIVE FIRE CONTROL AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE STATE OF MONTANA
AND _____ COUNTY

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into by and between _____ County, hereinafter called the **COOPERATOR**, and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Forestry Division, hereinafter called the **DEPARTMENT**, and effective the _____ day of _____, 19 ____ .

The purpose of this agreement, when signed by both parties and accompanied by a written wildland fire management plan, hereinafter called the **PLAN**, is to satisfy the requirements of Montana Code Annotated section 7-33-2210.

The parties to this agreement, in consideration of the mutual covenants and stipulations set out herein, agree as follows:

1. The **COOPERATOR** shall assist the **DEPARTMENT** in drafting and annually updating the **PLAN** for the fire protection area within the **COOPERATOR**'s territorial boundaries.
2. The **COOPERATOR** shall appoint a County Rural Fire Chief/Firewarden pursuant to Montana Code Annotated section 7-33-2203. The County Fire Chief/Firewarden shall work directly with the **DEPARTMENT** in accordance with the requirements of the **PLAN**.
3. The **COOPERATOR** is authorized to annually appropriate funds pursuant to Montana Code Annotated section 7-33-2209. The **COOPERATOR** shall use these funds in accordance with the requirements of the **PLAN**.
4. The **COOPERATOR** shall implement the **PLAN** by performance of the duties imposed by Montana Code Annotated sections 7-33—2202 and 7-33-2203. The **COOPERATOR** may exercise the powers authorized by Montana Code Annotated sections 7-33-2205, 7-33-2206 and 7-33-2208.
5. The **DEPARTMENT** shall update the **PLAN** and present it for the approval of the **COOPERATOR** no later than May 15 of each year.
6. The **DEPARTMENT** shall, as funds permit, provide assistance to the **COOPERATOR** in accordance with the requirements of the **PLAN**. Equipment made available to the **COOPERATOR** by the **DEPARTMENT** shall comply with the stipulations set forth in the **COOPERATIVE EQUIPMENT AGREEMENT F-202**.
7. It is mutually agreed that both parties shall meet annually to review this agreement and the **PLAN**. The **DEPARTMENT** shall schedule the annual meeting and shall notify all affected parties of the date and location of the meeting.
8. It is mutually agreed that this agreement may be terminated at any time by mutual consent of the parties. In the absence of mutual consent, either party may terminate this agreement on June 30 of any year by giving written notice to the other party on or before June 1 of that year. Unless terminated in accordance with this provision, this agreement will continue in full force and effect for an additional period of one year beginning July 1 of each year.

COUNTY OF _____:

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION:

BY _____

BY _____

DIRECTOR

BY _____

BY _____

ATTEST:

BY _____

ADMINISTRATOR, FORESTRY DIVISION

APPENDIX #2

COOPERATIVE COUNTY FULLY COMMITTED GUIDELINES

"Fully Committed" is a term used in relation to the buildup of county-committed resources (equipment and personnel) to a wildland fire incident within that county, in preparation to asking for State assistance. Montana's counties contain a wide spectrum of capabilities, which makes developing a one-size-fits-all, inclusive statement defining when a county is fully committed all but impossible. Most Land Offices, and some of their Co-op. Counties, find themselves having to make this judgment several times per year. Following are some general guidelines highlighting aspects of the State/County Cooperative Fire program as they pertain to commitment levels, as well as a "tickler" list to aid a Land Office representative, and the County's representative, in making this determination.

The first thing to understand is that a county provides the necessary wildland fire protection afforded through the State/County Co-op. Fire program with a system of firefighters (primarily volunteers) from various Rural Fire Districts, Fire Service Areas, Volunteer Fire Companies, and County Rural Fire Departments.

These Guidelines recognize the duty and responsibility of these same fire organizations to continue to provide standard and adequate fire protection within their respective legal jurisdictions, even during a county-wide wildland fire incident. Further, it is understood and accepted that any policy encompassing all possible situations is unrealistic and acknowledges that the merits of a request for state assistance must be jointly assessed and evaluated by the Incident Commander(s), the County Firewarden (or another county representative acting for the County Commissioners), and the assigned DNRC representative, on a case-by-case basis. County-wide mutual aid agreements, mapped initial attack and fire protection areas, and fire department drawdown plans are some of the aids that need to be available, and annually updated, to allow this group to assess the capabilities of a particular county. Signed mutual aid agreements with adjoining counties are valuable tools a county can use to maintain their ability to respond to all legally mandated incidents. When, or if, these out-of-county mutual aid resources enter a paid status after State assistance is given is dependent solely on the judgment of the assigned DNRC representative and is covered in the Mobilization of Local Government Fire Forces document.

Following is a list of some things that the County should consider doing prior to a wildland request for State assistance:

- **Department(s) with jurisdiction are committed presently, and for the duration of the incident.**
- **Other divisions of county government are committed as necessary:**
 - **County Road Department.**
 - **Law Enforcement.**
 - **Search and Rescue (S&R).**
 - **Disaster and Emergency Services (DES).**
- **Mutual Aid resources within the county are utilized as per annual operating plan(s):**
 - **Drawdown plans implemented.**
- **All DNRC equipment on loan is committed to incident(s) or other initial attack responsibilities.**
- **County equipment and personnel are committed to incident(s) or other initial attack responsibilities as appropriate.**
- **Signed Mutual Aid Agreements with adjoining counties, state agencies, federal**

agencies, or other fire jurisdictions invoked as necessary. Knowing these other agencies might be committed to their own incident(s), this listing is offered for consideration when reasonably available.

- **Consideration given to invoking the County 2-Mill Levy, per 7-33-2209 MCA, and/or**
- **Consideration given to invoking the County 2-Mill Levy, per DES 10-3-405 MCA. The County usually has to declare emergency or disaster in this case.**

While most incidents unfold in a linear fashion, starting small and growing larger in a predictable manner, some do not. Weather, fuels, and other factors can cause an incident to grow exponentially, from small to complex, in a very short time. Sustained high fire dangers, Haines Indexes 5+, Lightning Activity Levels (LAL's) of 5, Burning Indexes (BI's)/ Energy Release Components (ERC's) above the 90th percentile, and other large incidents in the county or state could cause an emerging incident to progress past the point of possible containment with the county's resources, or lower the potential for the county to respond adequately. (In cases such as this, the decision time to involve other cooperators and seek State assistance will naturally be compressed. In these cases, it may not be possible to use the above criteria to judge "fully committed.") Also, as fire season conditions worsen, some pre-planning of the State assistance process needs to occur. Several forms of State assistance may be given to a county, before an "official" request is processed, in order to keep an incident from becoming "project" size, after which time an incident becomes very dangerous and expensive. For example, mutual aid response by DNRC resources, the use of retardant or other resources/supplies which the counties don't have access to, should be considered if conditions warrant. It might help to set up some "trigger" points understood by all parties when such actions would occur.

The State/County Co-op Fire program attempts to strengthen the initial attack capabilities of a county's fire forces by having the State (DNRC) provide training, equipment, and help in organizing fire protection. The State additionally provides, on an "as needed" basis, technical assistance in the form of County Fire Advisors, fixed and/or rotary wing air support, or other non-traditionally provided resources. In turn, the County agrees to initial attack all fires on State and private land within the county which are not otherwise protected. The County maintains responsibility for all such county fires, even after the request for State assistance has been approved. The County remains as a Line Officer, in consultation with the local DNRC Land Office representative overseeing the State's involvement. The County can delegate authority for specific tactical and support operations needed to mitigate an incident, but final responsibility rests with the County. The County must also maintain a presence throughout the incident(s) duration. At some agreed point after the incident's containment and control, the County will be expected to take back operational control of the incident until it's declared out. This point will be jointly agreed to by the I.C., the DNRC representative with authority, and the County Firewarden (or another representative acting for the County Commissioners). State involvement after this point will again be at the discretion of the local DNRC Land Office representative, in consultation with the County Firewarden.

APPENDIX #3

Part 22
Rural Fire Protection

7-33-2201. Authority of county governing body to protect range, farm, and forest resources. For the purpose of protection and conservation of range, farm, and forest resources and of the prevention of soil erosion, the county governing body may perform the functions provided in this part.

7-33-2202. Functions of county governing body. (1)The county governing body, with respect to rural fire control, shall carry out the specific authorities and duties imposed in this section:

(2) The governing body shall:

- (a) provide for the organization of volunteer rural fire control crews; and
- (b) provide for the formation of county volunteer fire companies.

(3) The governing body shall appoint a county rural fire chief and such district rural fire chiefs, subject to the direction and supervision of the county rural fire chief, as it considers necessary.

(4) Pursuant to 76-13-105(3), the county governing body shall, within the limitations of 7-33-2205, 7-33-2206, 7-33-2208, and 7-33-2209, either:

(a) directly protect from fire land in the county that is not in a wildland fire protection district, as provided in 76-13-204, or under the protection of a municipality, state agency, or federal agency; or

(b) enter into an agreement for wildland fire protection with a recognized agency, as that term is defined in 76-13-102.

(5) The county governing body may enter into mutual aid agreements for itself and for county volunteer fire companies with:

- (a) other fire districts;
- (b) unincorporated municipalities;
- (c) incorporated municipalities;
- (d) state agencies;
- (e) private fire prevention agencies;
- (f) federal agencies;
- (g) fire service areas; or
- (h) governing bodies of other political subdivisions in Montana; or
- (i) governing bodies of fire protection services, emergency medical care providers, and local government subdivisions of any other state or the United States pursuant to Title 10, chapter 3, part 11.

(5) If the county governing body has not concluded a mutual aid agreement, the county governing body, a representative of the county governing body, or an incident commander may request assistance pursuant to 10-3-209.

7-33-2203. County rural fire chief. The county rural fire chief may be a regular county officer or other person who in the opinion of the board is the best qualified to perform the duties of this office and who is not entitled to additional compensation for the duties hereby imposed.

7-33-2205. Establishment of fire season -- permit requirements. The county governing body may in its discretion establish fire seasons annually, during which no person may ignite or set any forest fire, slash-burning fire, land-clearing fire, debris-burning fire, or open fire within the county protection area on any forest, range, or croplands subject to the provisions of this part without having obtained an official written permit to ignite or set such fire from the recognized protection agency for that protection area.

7-33-2206. Violations. Any person who ignites or sets any forest fire, slash-burning fire, land-clearing fire, debris-burning fire, or open fire within any forest, range, or cropland subject to the provisions of this part without first having obtained a written permit to ignite or set such fire is guilty of a misdemeanor.

7-33-2208. Fire control powers -- liability. (1) Any county rural fire chief, district rural fire chief or deputy, or fire service area or fire company fire chief or deputy may enter private property or direct the entry of fire control crews for the purpose of suppressing fires.

(2) A chief or deputy and the county, rural district, fire company, or fire

service area are immune from suit for injury to persons or property resulting from actions taken to suppress fires under 10-3-209 or this section. An entity or individual listed in this section is also immune from suit for injury to persons or property resulting from a determination not to provide assistance requested pursuant to 10-3-209.

7-33-2209. Finance of fire control activities. (1) The county governing body is authorized to appropriate funds for the purchase, care, and maintenance of firefighting equipment or for the payment of wages in prevention, detection, and suppression of fires.

(2) If the general fund is budgeted to the full limit, the county governing body may, at any time fixed by law for levy and assessment of taxes, levy a tax of up to 2 mills or at a rate that will raise \$15,000, whichever is higher.

7-33-2210. State to be reimbursed for forest fire suppression activities in noncooperating counties. A county that has not entered into a cooperative or other written agreement with the state for forest protection shall reimburse the state for costs incurred by the state in connection with state fire suppression activities resulting from a forest fire emergency in that county.

7-33-2211. Levy against certain properties prohibited. The levy authorized by this part may not be assessed against properties located within the incorporated boundaries of a city or town.

COOPERATIVE EQUIPMENT AGREEMENT

between

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
FORESTRY DIVISION

and

COUNTY	COUNTY'S Address
--------	------------------

This Cooperative Equipment Agreement is made between _____ County, hereinafter referred to as the COUNTY, and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Forestry Division, represented by and hereinafter referred to as the STATE:

WHEREAS on, _____, 20____, the COUNTY enter into a Fire Control Agreement with the STATE for the protection from fire of State and private forest, range, farm, and watershed resources within its protection area; and

WHEREAS, the COUNTY can more adequately carry out this function, as described and set forth in Montana Code Annotated sections 7-33-2201 through 7-33-2212, as amended, if additional equipment is available; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, from time to time, has a limited number of vehicles or other equipment suitable for fire fighting that can be made available to other agencies involved in fire control work; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined to be advantageous to the STATE in the proper discharge of its responsibilities as set forth in Montana Code Annotated sections 76-13-104 and 76-13-136, as amended, to make certain surplus federal government equipment available to the COUNTY;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is mutually agreed:

1. The STATE will loan specific items of fire fighting equipment, when such equipment is available, to the COUNTY in accordance with the mutually established fire plan and its amendments, and applicable Federal laws, rules and regulations.
2. The COUNTY agrees to make the above equipment available for use on private and public ownership for the protection from fire as set forth in Montana Code Annotated sections 7-33-2201, 7-33-2202, 76-13-104, and 76-13-136, and when requested by the STATE'S representative. Incidental use on any type of fire or other emergencies which threaten loss of life or property is proper providing that this equipment is available and primarily used for fire duties as set forth in Montana Code Annotated sections 76-13-104, 76-13-136, 7-33-2201 and 7-33-2202. Refusal or neglect to make this equipment available for use on such fires without good and sufficient cause shall be grounds for termination of this Agreement by the STATE.

3. The proper identification of the equipment as cooperative fire equipment, and as federal or state property, if applicable, will be maintained and the equipment will not be sold, junked, rented, traded, given away, nor is personal use to be allowed. No disassembly of equipment or removal of parts is allowed without prior approval of the STATE. All State or Federal property is to be painted and marked in accordance with State statutes or STATE'S instructions.
4. Title to all equipment loaned under this Agreement will remain with the State of Montana or Federal government. All vehicles will bear the permanent Montana Agency (State-owned) license plate furnished by the State without charge.
5. The COUNTY is solely responsible for the proper use, protection, maintenance, and care of the equipment and supplies loaned under this Agreement.
6. The COUNTY shall maintain and make necessary repairs to the said equipment and component parts thereof so that it is kept in good, serviceable and safe repair.
7. The STATE will maintain an inventory of the equipment made available through this Agreement.
8. The COUNTY will assure that all operators of the equipment covered by this Agreement meet the appropriate minimum driver's license requirements per Montana State law and are members of either a Rural Fire District, County Volunteer Rural Fire Department, Fire Service Area, or Municipal Fire Department.
9. The STATE will assume the costs for property damage to the loaned equipment only. The COUNTY is solely responsible and will assume the costs for any damage or personal injuries caused by the use, including, but not limited to, the improper, negligent, or wrongful use, of the equipment loaned under this agreement. The COUNTY will assume the cost for any damaged miscellaneous equipment, such as separate pumps, hose, tools, and supplies, that were not loaned or supplied by the STATE.
10. The COUNTY shall provide Workers= Compensation Insurance coverage on drivers, passengers or workers using or working with any equipment loaned under this agreement.
11. COUNTY acknowledges and agrees that the equipment or supplies loaned under this agreement carry no express or implied warranty and, on behalf of itself and its agents, successors and assigns, agrees that it shall make no claim against the STATE, the State of Montana or the Federal Government based upon any defect, whether apparent or not, in such loaned equipment or supplies.
12. The COUNTY agrees to indemnify, defend and hold the STATE, and the Federal Government harmless from any and all claims, or causes of action arising out of the use or condition of the equipment or supplies loaned under this Agreement.
13. Loss, damage, or destruction of State- or Federally-owned equipment by fire, collision, theft, or any other means, will be reported immediately to the STATE with signed affidavit showing loss, cause and recovery action attempted by the COUNTY. Accidents involving State- or Federally-owned equipment must be reported immediately by the COUNTY to

the STATE on forms provided for that purpose. Federal policy requires investigation to determine the cause of negligence, if any.

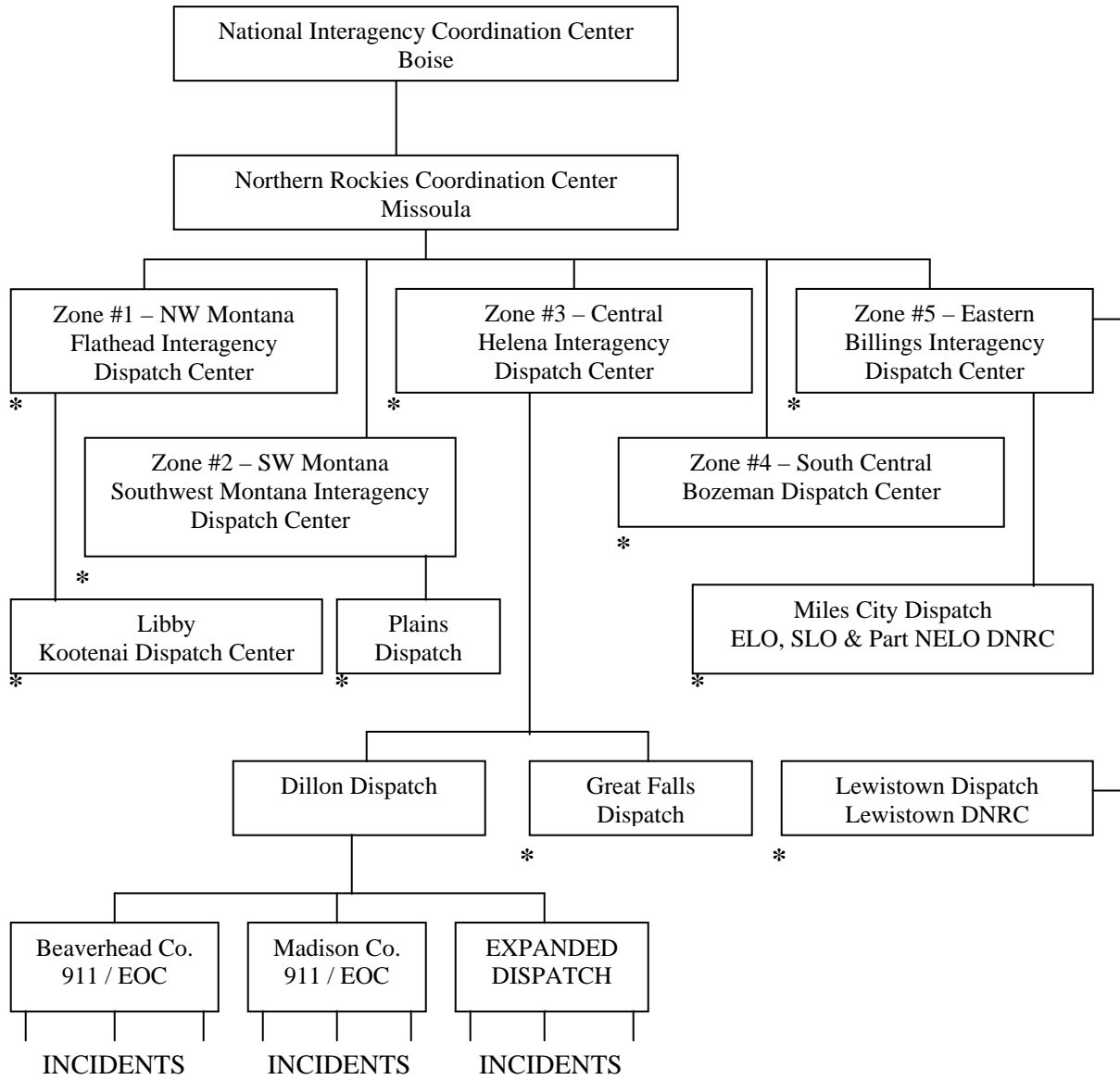
14. The COUNTY agrees to permit and assist in inventory and inspection of fire equipment procured under this Agreement as may be necessary to promote the effective use of this equipment, whether it be State-owned or Federal excess property.
15. Items of equipment covered by this Agreement no longer needed by the COUNTY will be reported to the STATE, who will determine disposition.
16. If this Agreement or the Fire Control Agreement between the STATE and the COUNTY is terminated by either party, all equipment provided by the STATE will be returned to the STATE.
17. Any equipment owned and installed by the COUNTY remains the property of the COUNTY and should be removed prior to returning the equipment to the STATE.
18. The Agreement shall be effective for an indefinite period and may be terminated by either party hereto by thirty (30) days written notice. If the COUNTY terminates this Agreement, the equipment covered by this Agreement will be returned to the STATE in operable condition.

		_____	COUNTY
			(Title)
Date	_____	BY _____	_____
		_____	_____
		_____	_____
		_____	_____
		_____	_____

			MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION:
			(Title)
Date	_____	BY _____	_____
			(Forestry Division Administrator or Land Office Area Manager)

APPENDIX #5

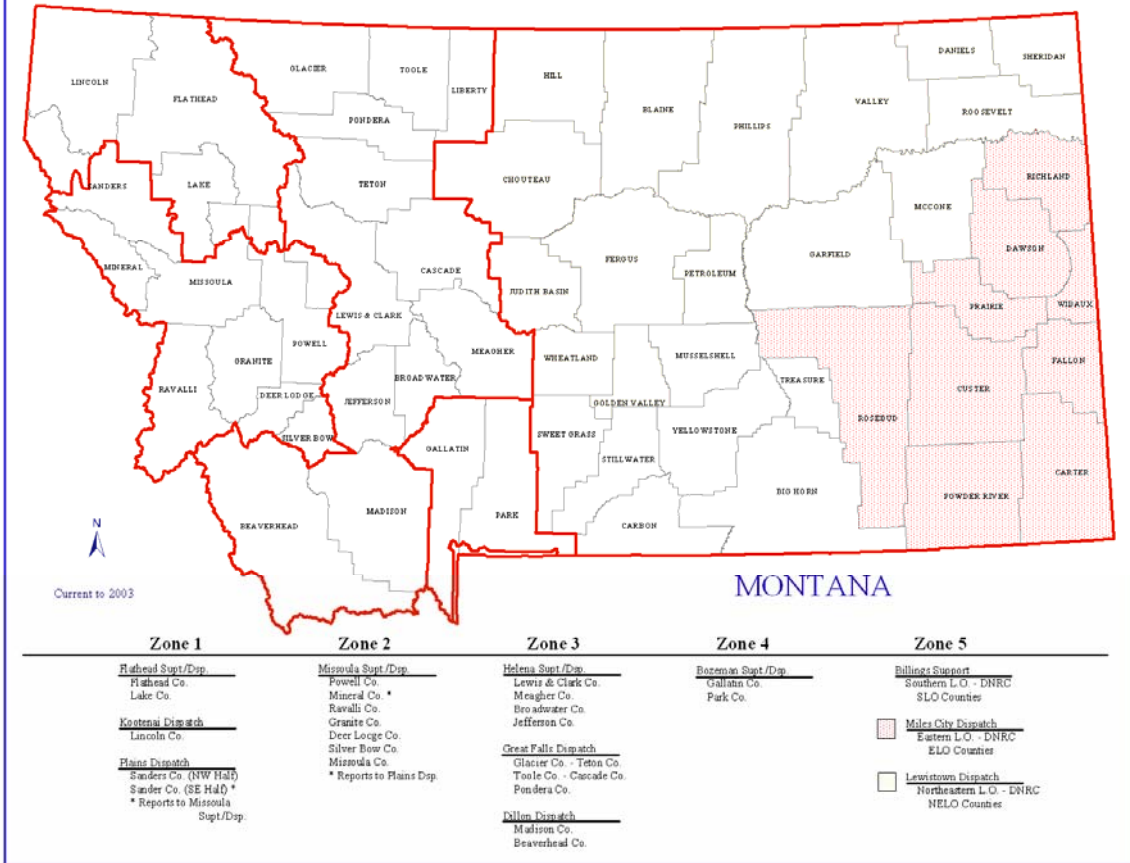
**MONTANA FIRE RESOURCES MOBILIZATION/DISPATCH SYSTEM
11/01/97**



*Similar organization to Dillon Dispatch.

DES Area and State Organizations fit in as appropriate.

ZONE INTERAGENCY DISPATCH SYSTEM



APPENDIX #6

COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

EXHIBIT B

ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN OUTLINE GUIDE

An Annual Operating Plan is a working document compiled each year by local wildfire agencies participating in the Plan, and shall be attached to and considered a part of the Interagency Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement (see Clause #9 of the Agreement).

The Plan should contain the following information, whenever applicable:

1. **Plan approvals** from authorized agency representatives with dates.
2. **Identification of the jurisdiction** within the area of the plan.
3. **Authority for plan**--cite Interagency Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement among the state and federal agencies, and Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection between the state and county.
4. **Purpose of plan**--brief narrative.
5. **Definitions and description of:**
 - a. Fire protection responsibilities.
 - b. Mutual aid dispatch areas by dispatch levels.
 - c. Mutual aid move-up and cover facilities.
 - d. Special management considerations (wilderness areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, research natural areas, archeological sites, roadless areas, other areas identified in management planning documents, urban interface areas, or areas otherwise requiring special management procedures).
 - e. Responsibility for non-wildland fire emergencies.
 - f. Repair of wildfire suppression damage.

6. **Fire Protection Resource List** including prevention, detection, ground and air attack units, supervisory personnel, draw-down levels, and other cooperating agencies.
 - a. Kind (by ICS type).
 - b. Location.
 - c. Anticipated availability period.
 - d. Staffing levels.
 - e. Contact points and names.
7. **Protection Area Maps** showing:
 - a. Jurisdictional agency, protection unit, county boundary, area of responsibility and other plan needs (includes federal, state and LGF).
 - b. Fire protection facilities by agency and location.
 - c. Direct protection areas.
 - d. Mutual aid dispatch areas.
 - e. Special management consideration areas.
 - f. Date effective.
8. **Fire Readiness**
 - a. Fire planning.
 - 1) Presuppression analysis plans--trigger points for increases or decreases in manning or readiness.
 - 2) Prevention plans.
 - 3) Prescribed fire plans.
 - b. Wildfire training needs and coordination.
 - c. Inspection schedules.

9. Wildfire Suppression Procedures

- a. ICS use.
- b. Detection standards.
- c. Relationship with Local Mobilization Guide.
- d. Notification about fires.
- e. Establishment and revision of Mutual Aid Dispatch Areas.
- f. Initial Attack Dispatch Levels and their determination.
- g. Dispatching and resource order process.
 - 1) Unified command.
 - 2) Boundary fires.
- h. Reinforcements and support.
- i. Move-up and Cover locations and procedures.
- j. Interagency procurement, loaning, sharing, or exchanging and maintenance of facilities, equipment, and support services.
- k. Interagency sharing of communications systems and frequencies.
- l. Escaped fire situation analysis.
- m. Dispatch Centers or other incident support facilities.
- n. Post-incident action analysis.
- o. Out-of-jurisdiction assignments.
 - 1) Standards.
 - 2) Procedures.

7. Aviation Procedures

- a. Aviation map and narrative.
 - 2) Hazards.
 - 2) Sensitive zones (urban interface, aquatic, wilderness, etc.).
 - 3) Helispots, dip sites.
 - 4) Automatic dispatch zones (tied to preparedness planning).
 - 5) Detection routes.
 - 6) Foam/retardant restriction areas.
- b. Flight following/frequency management.
- c. CWN aircraft, tactical and support aircraft.
- d. Fixed wing base management.
- e. Single engine attack tanker bases.
- f. Lead plane/air attack activation.
- g. Aviation requests and operations.
 - 1) Initial attack.
 - 2) Boundary fires.
 - 3) Wildland Urban Interface
 - 4) Mutual Aid Procedures
 - 5) Air space restrictions
- h. Inspection schedules.

11. Fire Prevention

- a. General cooperative activities.
- b. Information and education.

- 1) Fire danger information.
 - a) Fire weather station locations.
 - b) Data sharing and methods.
 - c) Fire danger dissemination.
 - d) Fire prevention signs.
- 2) Joint or single agency press releases.
- 3) Smokey Bear Program
- 4) Red flag operations.
- c. Engineering
 - 1) Land use planning (Wildland-Urban Interface).
 - 2) Defensible space and fuels treatments.
 - 3) Railroads and utilities.
- d. Enforcement.
 - 1) Issuing open burning and campfire permits.
 - 2) Restrictions and closures (initiating, enforcement, and lifting).
 - 3) Fire investigations.

12. **Fuel Management and Prescribed Fire Considerations**

13. **Cost Reimbursements**

- a. Non-reimbursable items.
- b. Reimbursable items.
- c. Wildfire prevention.
- d. Wildfire readiness.
- e. Wildfire suppression.

- 1) Dispatching.
- 2) Initial attack.
- 3) Mutual aid.
- 4) Reinforcements.
- 5) Aviation.
- 6) Cost share plan.
- 7) Out-of-jurisdiction assignments.
- 8) Billing procedures.
- 9) Resource use rates.

14. **General Procedures.** How to handle:

- a. Periodic program reviews.
- b. Annual updating of plans.
- c. Changes during year (due to budget cuts or supplemental funding).
- d. Resolution of disputes procedure.

15. **Directory of Personnel and/or Authorized Agency Representatives**

- a. Bureau of Land Management
- b. Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
- c. USDA Forest Service
- d. Bureau of Indian Affairs
- e. National Park Service
- f. Fish and Wildlife Service
- g. County
 - 1) Board of Commissioners

- 2) Sheriff's Department
- h) Fire Departments
- i) Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe

SAMPLE #1

SAMPLE

_____ **COUNTY**

COOPERATIVE FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by:

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

_____ Area/Unit Office

Date Prepared: _____

_____ COUNTY
COOPERATIVE FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Plan is approved and adopted by:

AREA MANAGER, _____ LAND OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DATE

_____ CO. RURAL FIRE CHIEF(FIREWARDEN)

DATE

FIRE MANAGEMENT OFFICER
BLM _____ DISTRICT OFFICE

DATE

DISTRICT RANGER
USFS _____ N.F., _____ RANGER DIST.

DATE

FIRE MANAGEMENT OFFICER
_____ TRIBE(S)

DATE

CHIEF, _____ RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

DATE

CHIEF, _____ FIRE SERVICE AREA

DATE

CHIEF, _____ FIRE DEPARTMENT

DATE

_____ COUNTY
COOPERATIVE FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

ADDITIONAL SIGNATURE PAGE

This Plan is approved and adopted by:

FIRE MANAGEMENT OFFICER _____ DATE
U. S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE _____ REFUGE DISTRICT

CHIEF, _____ RURAL FIRE DISTRICT _____ DATE

CHIEF, _____ FIRE DEPARTMENT _____ DATE

CHIEF, _____ FIRE SERVICE AREA _____ DATE

DISTRICT RANGER _____ DATE
USFS _____ N.F., _____ RANGER DIST.

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CHAPTER 10 INTRODUCTION

11 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Plan is to provide a framework for interagency cooperation in wildland fire management for _____ County. When adopted, this Plan will serve as a formal agreement between all federal, tribal, state and local government agencies in the county with fire protection responsibilities. The Plan is intended to define agency roles and will describe the manner in which these agencies work together to provide safe and cost-effective fire protection for the county.

12 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary goal of this Plan is to enable all fire protection agencies to provide a higher level of service for their constituents through better cooperation, coordination, and efficiency. This goal will be achieved by the following objectives:

- (A) Identifying all of the agencies in the county having wildland fire protection responsibilities, and defining their roles and responsibilities;
- (B) Describing existing mutual aid agreements, and establishing guidelines for assistance actions between local government fire agencies and State, Federal, and Tribal wildland fire agencies.
- (C) Providing a plan for conducting joint training and fire prevention projects.
- (D) Describing the dispatch and coordination systems used by the agencies, and establishing procedures for mobilizing fire suppression resources.
- (E) Defining standard operating procedures for interagency firefighting operations, including communications, incident management, and resource sharing.
- (F) Providing operational guidelines for implementation of the State/County Cooperative Fire program in _____ County.

13 AUTHORITY

This Plan is adopted by the signatory agencies under authority provided in the following:

- (A) Cooperative Fire Management Agreement (referred to as the Master Agreement) between State of Montana, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS), Northern Region; U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Montana; National Park Service (NPS), Intermountain Region; Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Portland and Billings Areas; Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS), Rocky Mountain Region; Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CS&KT). NOTE: Agreement to be signed summer of 1997, effective date to be determined.
- (B) Cooperative Fire Control Agreement Between the State of Montana, Montana DNRC and _____ County; _____ (date).
- (C) Cooperative Equipment Agreement Between the State of Montana, Montana DNRC and _____ County; _____ (date).
- (D) 7-33-4112 M.C.A. - Authority for Mutual Aid Agreements between Municipalities and State/Federal Agencies.
- (E) 7-33-2405 M.C.A. - Authority for Mutual Aid Agreements between Fire Service Areas and State/Federal Agencies.
- (F) 7-33-2202 M.C.A. (4) - Authority for Mutual Aid Agreements between the County and State/Federal Agencies.
- (G) 7-33-2108 M.C.A. - Authority for Mutual Aid Agreements between Rural Fire Districts and State/Federal Agencies.

14 PLANNING PROCESS

This Plan is the result of a cooperative planning effort by all fire protection entities in the County. The Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) is responsible for the actual writing, editing, distribution and updating of the Plan as part of the State/County Cooperative Fire program. Amendments or changes to the Plan must be agreed upon by all parties before being incorporated in the Plan. The DNRC _____ Area/Unit Office will coordinate any changes recommended by any of the agencies. When signed, this Management Plan will remain in effect for five (5) years from the date of the last signatory. Annual updates of critical information, such as new contact persons, updated phone lists, etcetera, will be incorporated in the attached Annual Operating Plan and sent to all involved or concerned parties by April 30 of each year.

Which agencies sign off on this Plan will depend greatly on the makeup of the local entities. A good mix of agencies to strive for is the Area Manager at the local DNRC Land Office, the County Rural Fire Chief (Firewarden), and any local Federal/Tribal fire agency that is involved in any way with wildland fire in the area covered by this Plan. Having all local government fire agencies sign off is certainly a worthy goal, though in practice, these organizations should be represented by the Firewarden through the County Rural Fire Council (or similar organization).

This Cooperative Fire Management Plan serves as a stand-alone document but it could also supplement an Interagency Annual Operating Plan as an attachment when such an Operating Plan is in place between the State and Federal/Tribal agencies within a Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NRCG) zone.

CHAPTER 20

FIRE SERVICE ORGANIZATION

21 COUNTY AGENCIES

In order to assure well coordinated wildland fire protection in the county, it is important to begin with a clear definition of the roles and responsibilities of everyone that takes part in fire control operations. The various individuals and entities must fully understand their own mission, as well as the role others fill in the county-wide fire service.

Montana Statutes charge certain governmental bodies with wildland fire protection, depending on location, ownership, and vegetative cover of the land. Many times these distinctions are not exclusive, resulting in some areas of the county having wildland fire protection by more than one agency. This overlapping jurisdiction often provides some lands, usually classified forest lands, with an extra measure of fire protection. However, it can also lead to confusion and omissions if pre-established plans are inadequate or misunderstood.

The fire service in _____ County is essentially made up of two types of protection agencies: A county level ≅ organizations and "Recognized Forest Fire Protection ≅ agencies at both the State and federal level. The following section will describe the roles and responsibilities of the individual departments or agencies that fall under each classification.

21.1 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

As set forth in Montana Statutes, _____ County is responsible for the protection of the county's resources from wildfire (7-33-2202 M.C.A.) This applies to privately owned lands (or local government owned), whether forested or not. Lands within the city limits of a county's incorporated cities are excluded from this mandate, since cities are required by other statutes to have their own municipal fire departments.

The county is allowed a number of methods it may adopt to provide this protection. In the above mentioned areas of the county where there is no fire district and no other designated protection agency, the county governing body has the legal responsibility for wildland fire suppression.

The Board of County Commissioners is the executive body of the County. In _____ County, this Board is composed of _____ commissioners, one from each of _____ geographical districts in the County. The Commissioners have the authority to:

- (A) Establish Rural Fire Districts (RFD=s) after the commissioners are presented with a petition for formation of a district, signed by a majority of the landowners owning 50 percent or more of the private land in the area. After holding a public hearing, the Commissioners then create the district, and either run the district themselves or appoint a board of trustees to run the district (7-33-2104 M.C.A.).
- (B) Establish Fire Service Areas (FSA=s), upon receipt of a petition, signed by at least 30 owners of real property in the proposed area, or a majority if there are no more than 30. After holding a public hearing, the Commissioners can manage the FSA themselves, appoint a five member board of trustees, or authorize the election of five qualified trustees (7-33-2403 M.C.A.).
- (C) Set the mill levy sufficient to fund the RFD/FSA budgets (within the constraints of I-105). The fire district trustees determine the district's financial needs, prepare a budget, and request special levies. The county treasurer disburses the district's funds, and collects income for the district (7-33-2105 M.C.A.). Elected trustees of FSA operate similarly to the RFD board of trustees. Appointed boards have some restrictions on preparing budgets and requesting levies.
- (D) Provide for the formation of county volunteer fire companies.
- (E) Provide fire protection services. If it chooses, the Board of Commissioners can collect and expend funds to purchase fire fighting equipment, form fire companies, contract for protection services, enlist volunteer fire crews to suppress fires (7-33-2209 M.C.A.).
- (F) Appoint a County Rural Fire Chief (Firewarden) and any assistant rural fire chiefs as needed. The Commissioners determine the duties of the firewarden, and level of authority to be delegated to the individual for the purpose of carrying out the Board's fire responsibilities (7-33-2202(2)).
- (G) Establish or extend burning seasons. The Board may establish a county fire season, during which burning permits are required by anyone wanting to conduct open burning. This would only apply to private lands, and only be applicable to forested lands during the period outside of the state-wide forest fire season (May 1 through September 30).
- (H) Request State fire suppression assistance. Under the State/County Cooperative Fire agreement, the county can request assistance from the State for ongoing fires beyond the capability of the county's resources. Technically, the Board of County Commissioners must make the request to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Because of the time factor involved though, the commissioners often delegate that authority down to the County Rural Fire Chief (Firewarden). The Commissioners still must follow up the verbal request with a written request to the Department within 48 hours.

21.2 RURAL FIRE CHIEF (FIREWARDEN)

The Rural Fire Chief (Firewarden) is appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. This person has the following responsibilities:

- (A) Represents the Board of Commissioners in matters pertaining to wildland fire management in the county. As such, the Board delegates a certain level of authority to the firewarden, and he serves as the county's "line" officer (line of authority from commissioners to firewarden).
- (B) Coordinates wildland fire protection for all lands on which the county is required to provide fire protection. This primarily applies to the "unprotected" lands outside of established protection jurisdictions, including Fire Service Areas without a resolution of intent to fight wildland fire, but it can also include lands in the rural fire districts during a county-wide or large fire event.
- (C) Monitors the county fire situation, and assures that adequate county resources are mobilized to suppress its fires. The firewarden does not need to be in command of incident operations, but instead is responsible for putting resources in place to handle the fire. This person is responsible for county-wide operations, and therefore should not be tied down to one incident. For fires within fire district boundaries, the firewarden becomes involved when the fire exceeds the capabilities of the district.
- (D) Keeps the Board of Commissioners apprised of the wildfire situation in the county, and brings wildfire related matters before the board for consideration.
- (E) Attends meetings of the _____ County Rural Fire Council (Association of Fire Fighters). The firewarden acts as a liaison between the Commissioners and the Council, bringing matters to each body from the other.
- (F) Serves as the primary contact between the county and the State (DNRC) with regard to wildland fire. When the county's capability to handle a fire is exceeded, the firewarden is usually the only one who can request assistance from the State (if the Commissioners delegate this authority to him). In addition, this person also works with the State in planning, prevention, training, and equipment procurement.
- (G) Ensures that wildland fire equipment on loan to the county is maintained, fire-ready, and accounted for. The firewarden consolidates requests from rural fire districts, fire service areas, etcetera, for excess fire equipment, and forwards the requests to the State. State provided equipment will be disbursed by the firewarden, under recommendation from the Council.
- (H) Represents the county and its fire organizations in the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NRCG), a region/state-wide organization of wildland firefighting

agencies. This is accomplished by membership in the Montana County Firewardens Association and participation with the local Zone Mobilizations Board.

- (I) At the request of the County Commissioners, ensures that wildland fire concerns are addressed by land developers during the subdivision review process on major residential projects.

21.3 RURAL FIRE COUNCIL

The County Rural Fire Council acts as an advisory body to the Commissioners and to the firewarden. In _____ County this function is filled by _____ (County Firefighters Association, etcetera).

The functions of the Rural Fire Council, include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (A) Provide expertise to the County Board of Commissioners in matters relating to wildland fire management. The group either originates discussion on topics or deals with items brought before it by the Commissioners. Its conclusions or recommendations are then forwarded to the Board through the firewarden. These issues may include the establishment of fire seasons, burning permit guidelines, fire restrictions, and planning reviews.
- (B) Identify and work toward resolving fire related problems in the county, with a goal of preventing destructive wildfires and assuring that all members work cooperatively in providing the most effective fire suppression service possible.
- (C) Make recommendations to the County Commissioners for appointment of a firewarden and any assistant fire firewardens that are needed.
- (D) Identify equipment and training needed for the safe and efficient control of wildfires, and recommend assignment or dispersal of equipment received by the county under the State/County Coop Fire program.
- (E) Through consensus, participates in writing and updating of this Cooperative Fire Management Plan, and works to ensure compliance by all concerned agencies.

21.4 RURAL FIRE DISTRICTS

A Rural Fire District (RFD) is a political subdivision having geographical boundaries established by a vote of the residents of an area. The operations of a district are funded by collection of a tax on all real property in the district.

In accordance with State law, Rural Fire Districts are responsible for protection of all property within the district from fire. There is no distinction in the law regarding what

type of fire, so all fires are included (structural, vehicle, and wildland). This applies regardless of the vegetative cover on the land, so forested lands are also included even if these lands are already protected by a Recognized Wildland Protection Agency. It is these forested lands, lying within established rural fire districts, that are referred to as having "overlapping jurisdiction."

There is also no provision in the law that would exempt non-taxable, government-owned lands within the District's boundaries from the District's responsibility to provide fire protection. If government-owned lands were not specifically excluded from the fire district when it was formed, then the district must provide the same level of fire protection to those lands as it does to private lands.

Although the two types of organizations may share geographical responsibilities, they differ in their respective missions. The Recognized fire protection agencies, which include the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC), Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CS&KT), and any of the 56 counties in the State/County Coop Fire program that accept this responsibility, are primarily wildland fire fighters, and for the most part will not perform structural fire fighting as they do not have the training or equipment to do so. Fire districts on the other hand, are more geared towards fighting structure fires, and some structural department do not have as much expertise in the wildlands, where natural fuels, weather, and topography influence fire fighting tactics. These opposing agency orientations have changed in recent years, due to the growth of housing developments in the residential/wildland interface. As homes are built further out into the woods, all of the entities involved in fire operations find themselves operating closer to the others "turf." Rural fire districts must be more proficient in wildland arena to effectively protect structures from wildfires, and forest agencies are faced with problem fires where man-made fuels (houses) are intermixed with natural fuels.

21.5 FIRE SERVICE AREAS

Fire Service Areas (FSA) are a relatively new form of fire protection codified in 7-33 part 24 MCA. They are also formed by submitting a petition to the County Commissioners, though the requirements (30 owners of real property in the proposed area), are much less strict than those for Rural Fire Districts. In areas where there are several large land owners, it was often impossible to get the required 50% or more of the owners of a majority of the land to sign a petition for forming a Rural Fire District. This meant that the formation of a Fire Company might be the only way to provide the structural protection that people sought for their homes. People found it hard to supply needed fire equipment when they had to rely on bake sales to raise the money. Fire Service Areas are supported by a tax on structures, or improvements that would benefit. As such, **FSAs have no direct or implied wildland fire protection** component. Only the Commissioners, by resolution, can decide on the boundaries, kinds, types, or levels of service a FSA will supply. Unless there is a Resolution to the effect that a FSA will do the wildland protection, you should assume that they are NOT legally mandated to do it.

Most FSAs will respond to wildland fire calls within their boundaries as it is prudent to help stop the spread of a wildfire before it involves the structures they are all legally mandated to protect. The wildland area within the FSA boundaries but outside the overlap area of either a Forest Fire District/Affidavit Unit/Nonforest Agreement or wildland agency with jurisdiction, would be considered county fire protection responsibility, and would in most cases be assigned to that FSA. In addition, the FSA would not be paid by the State or federal agency to provide structural fire suppression within their boundaries as they are legally mandated to do this. They would not get paid to fight wildland fire on any areas within their boundaries, except possibly on areas that were within a Forest Fire District/Affidavit Unit/Nonforest Agreement or wildland agency with jurisdiction land. If they were assigned the wildland fire protection within their boundaries by the County Commissioners, the FSA would not be eligible for payment within their boundaries by the federal or State agencies. Again, these kinds of things should also be addressed in an Annual Interagency Operating Plan where the FSA would respond to wildland fires within the areas of Nonforest Agreements in return for the *recognized agency* responding into the FSA.

The following section gives a brief description of each of the Rural Fire Districts/Fire Service Areas in the county (see also Map _____):

- (A) The _____ Rural Fire District covers the _____ most portion of the county, having a common border with _____. The district encompasses about _____ sq. miles. The entire fire district is also jointly protected from wildland fire by the _____ District of the _____ National Forest.
- (B) The _____ Fire Service Area covers _____(fill in the rest).
- (C)
- (D)
- (E)
- (F)
- (G)
- (H)

21.6 COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

In _____ County, the Sheriff's office does not (they also might) have direct fire suppression responsibilities, though it does play an important role in supporting the operations of the county's fire agencies.

The Sheriff's dispatch office in _____ functions as the 911 dispatch center for most emergency calls in the county. With regard to fire control, the office takes reports of fires and then dispatches the appropriate agency after determining jurisdictional responsibility. These agencies have differing levels of interaction with the dispatch office, which will be covered under the section of this plan dealing with communications.

The Sheriff and Deputies have the following primary responsibilities during wildfire suppression operations in the county:

- (A) *Traffic Control.* Any wildfire along a road system, especially in residential areas, will need some measure of traffic control to allow access of fire equipment and to keep unauthorized people out of the area of fire operations. This is critical in the initial attack phase of the fire, as any delays in the arrival of suppression resources could result in the fire becoming too large to handle, or an increase in property loss. At times, law enforcement personnel are needed as escorts to ensure safe passage of vehicles over smoke obscured roadways.
- (B) *Evacuation.* In the event of a major fire in any of the interface areas of the county, protection of lives becomes the number one priority of all suppression agencies. It is essential that an orderly evacuation of residents is undertaken, if needed, so suppression equipment can move into place to protect structures and fight the fire. Close coordination between fire personnel and the Sheriff's department is needed to ensure residents are notified and evacuated as safely and quickly as possible. In addition, law enforcement personnel would be responsible for providing security in the evacuated areas when fire conditions allow.
- (C) *Enforcement of Fire Laws.* There are numerous State statutes dealing with fire safety and fire prevention, and the Sheriff's office can be called upon by the wildland fire agencies to enforce these laws. Most notable are the laws pertaining to the requirement for burning permits during fire season. If a fire agency determines that an individual should be cited for a violation of these laws, it is up to law enforcement personnel to issue the citation, and up to the County Attorney to prosecute the case.
- (D) *Fire Investigation.* Because the county is the only entity with fire protection responsibilities in the "unprotected" areas of the county, the Sheriff's office is responsible for conducting fire investigations in these areas. The Sheriff's office may also be requested to assist in criminal arson investigations conducted by either the wildland fire agencies or the State Fire Marshall's Office.

21.7 COUNTY DES COORDINATOR

The county Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) Coordinator is usually a part-time position in the county, responsible for ensuring that the county meets State and federal

DES requirements. This primarily involves planning, resource tracking, readiness evaluation, and response coordination.

_____ County, like every other county in the State, has an Emergency Operations Plan that spells out preparedness and response actions for declared emergencies and disasters in the county. There is a wildfire annex in the plan which addresses wildfires that are declared to be emergency situations or that result in a major disaster. Although every wildfire is technically an emergency, the county does not officially declare an emergency in most cases. An Emergency Declaration is probably warranted in fire situations where multiple homes are under immediate threat of destruction, and where the ability of local fire forces to handle the fire is inadequate. Such a situation could occur with a large scale fire in the wildland/urban interface anywhere in the county.

21.8 COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT

The road department maintains and operates most of the County owned equipment that could be used for wildland firefighting. The department has _____ road districts, each with its own road foreman responsible for the department's operations in a particular geographical area. Road graders (patrols), and water trucks are two resources that are often needed on short notice. Arrangements to utilize these resources during a wildland fire in the county should be well developed before such a situation arises.

21.9 Other?

22 **WILDLAND FIRE AGENCIES**

Forest fire protection is defined in 76-13-102(6) MCA as the Awork of prevention, detection, and suppression of forest fires and includes training required to perform those functions.≡ Most classified forest lands in Montana are in the Central and Western portions of the state. The majority of these lands are either part of a Forest Fire Protection District or an Affidavit Unit, which are generally referred to as direct protection areas. Within these areas, there is only **ONE** *recognized agency* assigned wildland fire protection, usually the DNRC, USFS, BLM, or CS&KTs. These lands are provided this protection based on an assessment for services rendered, paid through the county tax rolls to the State.

Because the DNRC is allowed under 76-13-105 MCA to Aprotect nonforest lands and improvements≡, there are nonforest agreements written for areas that are NOT classified forest. These areas are assigned a recognized wildland protection agency and they are protected at the same level as Forest Fire Districts. This is one reason why the term Non Forest Zones (NFZ) does not always give the correct picture of fire protection, as NFZ can have direct protection as mentioned previously. Because of the high value placed on commercial timber, and on natural resources in general, governmental agencies are mandated to provide wildfire protection to lands owned by the Government. In addition, Montana State law requires that all privately-owned forested lands in the State be provided with wildfire protection (76-13-201 MCA). State laws

also establish a mechanism to provide this service, through the formation of Forest Fire Protection Districts (76-13-204). These Forest Fire Protection Districts are formed in a manner similar to the formation of Rural Fire Districts, except that the DNRC (the State Board of Land Commissioners is still the final authority) is the body that creates the Forest District instead of the County Commissioners. In _____ County, there are _____ Forest Fire Protection Districts, with boundaries roughly the same as the protection boundaries shown on Map _____.

"Forest fire protection" involves more than just putting out fires. Protection agencies are also responsible for pre-attack planning, fire prevention, equipment procurement, detection, suppression, cause determination, and reporting. Under 76-13-201 MCA, an owner of forest land classified as such by the department shall protect against the starting or existence and suppress the spread of fire on that land. This protection and suppression must be in conformity with reasonable rules and standards for adequate fire protection adopted by the department.

Private owners of forested land in the State are required to pay a fee for this fire protection. A Forest Fire Assessment program is managed by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to collect these funds, through the county-based property tax system. Landowners are assessed a fee of \$.17 per acre or a minimum fee of \$22.00 currently per parcel in each fire protection district. This assessment is a fee for benefits actually received by the landowners, and is not a tax on their property (however it is included in their property tax bill).

A landowner paying fire protection fees can receive no other charges as a result of wildfire originating on his or her land, unless the landowner is responsible for starting the fire. Although Rural Fire Districts are often reluctant to bill for costs, state and federal fire agencies will attempt to collect suppression costs from those responsible for starting the fire.

The following sections give a brief overview of the _____ wildland agencies in _____ County:

- 22.1 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION (DNRC)
- 22.2 U.S. FOREST SERVICE (USFS)
- 22.3 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)
- 22.4 BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (BIA)/ONE OF SEVEN MONTANA TRIBES
- 22.5 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS)
- 22.6 FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE (FWS)

CHAPTER 30 COOPERATION

31 MUTUAL AID GUIDELINES BETWEEN WILDLAND AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Fire protection agencies in _____ County will continue to see the wildland fire problem grow due to increasing values in interface areas, hazardous fuel buildups, and higher recreational activity. At the same time, many agencies have to cope with decreasing budgets and loss of fire personnel. If the county's fire service is to continue to provide an adequate level of fire protection it is essential that all agencies work together to help each other out when the help is needed. This section will describe the mechanisms that allow for cooperation between all of the Federal, State, Tribal and local fire agencies.

32 AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE STATE AND FEDERAL/TRIBAL AGENCIES

- (A) A mutual aid assistance action is one in which an agency responds at the request of another, either in an area outside their normal protection boundary, or to perform operations on a fire not normally the responsibility of the assisting agency.
- (B) In the event of a wildfire emergency, the agency having jurisdiction over the area affected may, through its delegated line of authority, request mutual aid assistance of any other agency or entity.
- (C) Officials receiving requests for assistance shall determine if their entities have resources available for response, and notify the requesting entity as soon as possible. The extent of aid to be furnished shall be determined solely by the entity furnishing such aid, and no liability shall be accrued by an entity not furnishing aid.
- (D) Assisting resources may be recalled at any time, at the sole discretion of the entity furnishing the assistance. Recall of assisting resources will only be made after proper notification of the Incident Commander.
- (E) The Incident Commander of the requesting entity will have overall direction of the assisting entity's resources, provided however; that operational control of individual equipment and personnel will remain with the supervisors provided by the supplying entity.
- (F) Resources provided by assisting entities will meet the minimum standards for personnel and equipment adopted by their own department/agency. It is highly recommended that all entities adopt the standards for wildland fire personnel and equipment established by NWCG, NRCG and NFPA.

- (G) **Assistance provided by cooperating agencies during the initial attack phase of a fire is non-reimbursable. If the agency with jurisdiction requests assisting resources to remain on the incident longer than _____ hours, it will hire those resources under contract according to provisions established in the NRCG Mobilization of Local Firefighting Resources guidelines. Assisting resources not specifically requested to remain are automatically released from the incident.**
- (H) If an agency determines that a fire occurring outside of its jurisdiction poses a threat to lands within its jurisdiction, the agency may take independent action to suppress the fire. Efforts will be made to work with the responsible agency, and no agency's actions should impede the actions of the other agency. Costs incurred on an independent action are non-reimbursable.
- (I) Suppression actions taken by local government forces on fires within their own jurisdictions will not represent reimbursable costs, since these forces have a legal mandate to perform such suppression actions.
- (J) No entity shall be held liable to another entity for damages, loss of equipment, injury to personnel or payment of compensation as a result of actions taken during mutual aid assistance, provided those actions are not grossly negligent.
- (K) In lieu of providing reciprocal mutual aid assistance to local fire entities, State, Federal, and Tribal wildland agencies may provide to the County and Rural Fire Districts: loaned equipment, fire training, fire prevention materials, assistance with fuels modification projects, land development review, and other goods or services. In addition, the wildland agencies will usually be responsible for major costs incurred in fighting project-sized fires in areas of overlapping protection with a rural fire district.

33 STATE/COUNTY COOPERATIVE FIRE PROGRAM

The State/County Cooperative Fire program is authorized under State statutes 7-33-2210, 76-13-106, and 76-13-102, MCA. Specifically, the State of Montana and _____ County have entered into a cooperative agreement which spells out certain responsibilities for each party, and allows for State support on county fires that are beyond the county's capability to control (**see Appendix C- Fully Committed Guidelines**). Through this agreement, the State (along with its cooperators) and the county are enabled to work together to achieve comprehensive wildland fire protection in the county.

One of the primary goals of the program is to establish at least a basic level of wildfire protection to all lands in the county that are not covered by a higher level of protection. Before entry into the program, _____ County still contained over _____ acres of wildlands that technically had no fire protection (see Map _____). In addition, many areas of the county that are included in rural fire districts have limited fire protection capabilities, due to inadequate resources and lengthy travel times. The Cooperative Fire program seeks to increase the level of protection in these areas through interagency coordination, pre-planning, prevention, training

and suppression assistance. The agreement between the State and _____ County obligates each to certain responsibilities.

The State will:

- (A) Assist in organizing and planning for wildfire suppression. In particular, this involves the preparation and updating of this Plan.
- (B) Provide wildland fire suppression equipment, as available, for local government fire agencies, to help them meet their wildland fire suppression responsibilities.
- (C) Provide wildland firefighting training to the county volunteer fire fighters.
- (D) Assist the county with wildland fire suppression activities in areas of county protection, on fires that exceed the suppression capabilities of the county.

The County will:

- (E) Establish a Rural Fire Council that will act in an advisory role to the _____ County Board of Commissioners, and will assist in implementing the Cooperative Fire program.
- (F) Appoint a County Rural Fire Chief (Firewarden) to perform the duties as set forth in 7-33-2203 M.C.A. Within the limitations imposed by the county, this individual will act as the county's representative in wildland fire related matters, and as such will be the primary contact for the State.
- (G) Provide wildland fire protection to non-forested zones and other areas lying outside of established forest fire protection districts, rural fire districts, or fire service areas (such FSA=s that have, by resolution, been given the wildland responsibility) as set forth in 7-33-2202 M.C.A.
- (H) Institute fire prevention measures, such as establishing a county burning season, enforcing burning permit requirements, imposing fire restrictions and consideration of wildfire concerns in planning matters.

34 COUNTY-WIDE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

Through the _____ Rural Fire Council/County Firefighters Association, all of the rural fire districts, fire service areas, and fire departments in the county have signed a blanket mutual aid agreement (**Appendix E**). This agreement basically enables any signatory to request assistance from, or provide assistance to, another signatory, under agreed upon conditions. In addition, _____ County is also a signatory to the agreement, allowing any county fire department to provide assistance to the county for wildfires on county protected lands.

35 COUNTY-TO-COUNTY MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

Any county-to-county agreements.

36 NORTHERN ROCKIES COORDINATING GROUP (NRCG)

The NRCG provides strategic coordination between wildland firefighting agencies in Montana, northern Idaho, North Dakota and parts of South Dakota. It's primary mission is to foster interagency cooperation across jurisdictional and administrative boundaries by providing direction, adopting standards, and resolving issues common to it's members.

_____ County fire entities have representation and participate in the activities of the
_____ NRCG geographic zone.

The Board of Directors of the zone meets quarterly to discuss local issues as well as topics that are being discussed by the region-wide NRCG Board. Agency representatives on the zone boards are responsible for bringing issues to the board from the field as well as disseminating the results back to their agencies. The zones may handle local problems internally, or will bump them up to the NRCG board. The zones' training committees are responsible for the coordination of certain training courses at the zone level, as well as the nomination of members to regional courses.

37 OTHER LOCAL AGREEMENTS

CHAPTER 40 TRAINING

41 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The fire agencies in the county will cooperate to ensure that all personnel involved with wildland firefighting have the knowledge, skills and ability required to perform their jobs safely.

State, Federal and Tribal fire agencies have established a minimum level of training for wildland firefighters which includes coverage of Fire Behavior (S-190), Fire Suppression (S-130), Basic ICS (I-100), and Fire Safety (Standards for Survival). A minimum physical fitness level must also be met through a passing score on the "Step (Pack) Test" or equivalent. These agencies are responsible for their own training and certification through the Red Card system. Emergency firefighters, including fire district personnel hired by the State for state fires or for federal agencies, must also meet these standards.

The CEO of Local Government Fire agencies, such as rural fire districts, fire service areas, and municipal fire departments, are responsible for ensuring that their personnel meet local standards when operating in their jurisdictions or when providing mutual aid to other departments. It is highly recommended that these agencies adopt the same standards as the wildland agencies. They need to meet these standards to be hired by the State for fire assignments with NRCG agencies.

The Department of Natural Resources has developed a three-level wildfire training package for county volunteer firefighters, which provides the minimum NRCG training requirements. These 16 hour classes are:

- Level I - Basics of Wildland Firefighting
- Level II - Wildland Fire Initial Attack
- Level III - Wildland Fire Incident Management

The State, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and _____ Tribes, will provide these courses to county firefighters as funds and time permits. The Annual Operating Plan for _____ County will list training courses to be conducted during the coming year, based on needs identified by the Rural Fire Council and the Rural Fire Chief (Firewarden). Working together, the agencies should also strive to hold more advanced training courses in the county, including:

- Intermediate Incident Command System (I-200)
- Fire Operations in the Interface (S-205)
- Intermediate Fire Behavior (S-290)
- Fire Business Management (Forms & Procedures)
- Wildland Fire Water-Handling and Water Supply (S-211)
- Fireline Construction and Dozer Use
- Map & Compass Use

Through the NRCG geographic zones, county firefighters may also obtain advanced wildland fire training at other locations in the state.

The Chief Officer of each local fire department/district is responsible for certifying the qualifications and fitness levels of personnel in their agencies. The DNRC will provide Red Card forms to the Chiefs for certifying fire district personnel up to the Strike Team Leader level. The DNRC will be responsible for certification of Strike Team Leader and above.

In order to manage small to medium-sized incidents in the county as cost-effectively as possible, all agencies will work to develop a "pool" of personnel qualified to perform in overhead positions on extended attack (Type III) incidents. _____ Dispatch Center, working jointly with the firewarden, will establish and maintain a listing of personnel from all agencies, by position. In the future, it may be advantageous to develop county-level Type III overhead teams for use on wildfires, as well as other types of emergency incidents.

Training courses alone are not enough to ensure safe and effective operations. The _____ County Association of Firefighters will work to sponsor at least one county-wide fire exercise annually, involving all agencies who could be called upon to work on a wildland fire. The dates and subject matter of the exercises will be listed in the Annual Operating Plan.

CHAPTER 50 PREVENTION

The safest and most inexpensive wildfire is the one that never happens. Fire prevention is an important aspect of the overall fire management effort, and the key to good fire prevention is an effective, unified approach by all fire agencies.

51 EDUCATION

The _____ County Rural Fire Council will coordinate county-wide wildland fire prevention activities. Prevention materials are available from the State through the county program and the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention program (CFFP), as well as from the _____ federal agencies. Yearly education and awareness activities will be identified in the Annual Operating Plan. Prevention measures may include:

- Fire Prevention Week activities
- County-Wide Wildland Fire Prevention Brochure
- Firefighter's Association booth at the County Fair
- Local poster contest along with "Keep Montana Green" contest
- School presentations or material distribution
- Regular newspaper articles dealing with fire prevention
- Safe Debris-Burning / Home-site fire safety video

Wildland fire agencies have individual prevention plans for their own fire protection areas. These individual plans should include provisions for participation by any local government fire agencies that are jointly responsible for residential interface fire protection. One example would be Smokey Bear presentation at elementary schools conducted jointly by rural fire district and wildland agency personnel.

Fire prevention-oriented news releases should also be coordinated with all affected agencies to ensure that the information to be delivered is accurate and up to date.

52 ENGINEERING

Engineering efforts can be directed toward items like:

- X Clearing along railroad and powerline right-of-ways;
- X Reducing fuel loadings by prescribed burning and fuels modifications;
- X Screening or closing in around eaves, other openings that allow sparks to enter.

53 ENFORCEMENT

A copy of the Montana Forest Fire Rules and Regulations is at **Appendix G**.

53.1 BURNING PERMITS

Burning permits are required by State law on all forested lands within the State during the official fire season of May 1 to September 30. The wildland fire agencies (DNRC, USFS, BLM, and BIA/TRIBES) each have their own guidelines for issuing burn permits in their jurisdictions. Since local government fire agencies are also involved with burn permit regulation, close coordination between the two types of agencies is needed to ensure safe burning and to exchange information.

On lands not protected by the wildland agencies, the county has responsibility to regulate burning. State Statute 7-33-2205 MCA authorizes the county governing body to establish a fire season in the county and issue burning permits. The county, in cooperation with the wildland agencies, should establish a county wide burning season and permitting system to prevent wildland fires started by careless debris burners.

This process should tie in closely with regulations established by air quality agencies (State Air Quality Bureau and/or Tribal Health Dept.). Enforcement of burning permit requirements is the responsibility of the County Sheriff's Department, either for fire concerns or for air quality concerns.

53.2 RESTRICTIONS AND CLOSURES

The NRCG has adopted a set of guidelines for the coordination of forest fire restrictions and closures among wildland fire agencies. The document, revised in 1995, describes the procedures for enacting five different levels of activity restrictions and area closure, if needed.

Forest activity restrictions are generally implemented on a zone-wide basis to minimize confusion among forest users in different fire protection jurisdictions. Because of climatological and administrative considerations, _____ County lies in the _____ restriction zone; the boundary between the _____ is the dividing line.

Since the wildland agencies can only enforce fire restrictions on the forested land that they protect, the county is responsible for enacting restrictions in non-forested areas. If restrictions are needed due to unusually high fire danger, the Rural Fire Council and the Firewarden will request an emergency resolution be enacted by the County Commissioners. This action should be coordinated with the wildland agencies.

CHAPTER 60 DISPATCH AND COORDINATION

61 DISPATCH CENTERS

61.1 911 CENTER

The _____ County Sheriff's office operates the 911 Dispatch Center for the county. In addition to handling law enforcement and emergency medical calls, the center also provides dispatch services to all of the rural fire districts and city fire departments. The dispatch center, operational 24 hours a day, is located in the Sheriff's office at _____.

With regards to wildfires, the 911 dispatch center is primarily responsible for receiving reports of fires and notifying the appropriate fire district and/or agency according to protocol sheets provided by the units. The center will provide some support to incidents, but generally does not function as an expanded dispatch office. For large-scale incidents, the County Emergency Operations Center is activated and works out of the County Commissioners chambers or other suitable office in the court house building. The county DES Coordinator will be involved in establishing and operating the EOC.

61.2 _____ DISPATCH CENTER

The _____ Dispatch Center provides initial attack dispatch service for the _____ Unit of DNRC, and the _____ District of the _____ National Forest. The dispatch office is located in the _____, and is staffed by _____ personnel.

The _____ operation is capable of expanding as needed for extended attack (Type III) incidents in its initial attack area. It will also provide support for State assistance actions on county fires outside of wildland agency jurisdictions, if needed. Expanded dispatch service for Type I and II incidents in the _____ area is handled directly by the _____ Montana Interagency Coordination Center in _____ (_____ Dispatch Center).

Since the DNRC _____ Area/Unit is responsible for administering the State/County Coop program in _____ County, _____ Dispatch Center has been assigned the task of coordinating the mobilization of local resources in the County.

61.3 _____ TRIBES / BIA _____ AGENCY

All Tribal fire operations are coordinated by their Fire Management Dispatch office, in _____. This office is responsible for initial attack and expanded dispatch for fires in Tribal fire jurisdiction on the _____ Indian Reservation.

For additional resources, this dispatch office sends resource orders to _____, however requests may also be sent directly to adjacent dispatch centers in _____ and _____. Tribal fire dispatch is responsible for mobilizing Montana Indian Fire Fighter (MIFF) crews assembled on the reservation.

61.4 U.S. FOREST SERVICE, _____ RANGER DISTRICT

The _____ District of the _____ National Forest is dispatched by the _____ Interagency Dispatch Center (____ Dispatch Center) in _____. Through the use of a radio repeater on _____ Mountain, resources responding to fires on the _____ District, communicate primarily with _____, or may go through the _____ Ranger District Office. _____ Dispatch Office provides expanded dispatch service for all fires on the _____ District, and usually sends resource orders through the _____ Support Zone dispatcher located in the _____ Interagency Dispatch Center.

62 DETECTION

Most wildfires in the populated areas of the county are detected by motorists or residents. In addition, law enforcement personnel on routine patrol are often in a position to observe any unusual smoke or fires.

During the months of July and August, the wildland fire agencies implement their own detection programs to monitor their areas for fires. By providing for early detection, fires can be attacked when they are still small and manageable. Both the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation and the (Forest Service/BLM/BIA/Tribes) conduct fixed wing air patrols during the summer, usually during periods of high fire danger or immediately after lightning activity.

63 REPORTING OF FIRES

Reports of wildfires will be directed to the agency responsible for fire protection in the area where the fire is reported. In addition, an agency receiving a report of a fire in an area with overlapping jurisdiction will also notify the other responsible agency. Dispatch offices receiving fire reports for fires on another jurisdiction should immediately relay the information to the responsible agency.

Calls to the Sheriff's office (911) will be handled according to response protocol guides which are provided by all emergency service providers in the county. Each fire entity in the county is responsible for providing updated guides annually. The 911 dispatcher will first determine which agency(s) has responsibility using protection area maps or fire district maps, then either dispatch county resources or notify the appropriate dispatch center. All of the county's fire districts and city fire departments are dispatched via pagers.

The Sheriff's office should be notified of any significant fire activity on lands protected solely by State or federal agencies. Although the county does not have jurisdiction over these fires, the firewarden needs to be kept informed of the overall fire situation in the county. In particular, this individual will keep track of available fire fighting resources and the county's capability to attack and support incidents.

CHAPTER 70 COMMUNICATIONS

With ___#___ wildland fire agencies, ___#___ rural fire districts, ___#___ fire service areas, ___#___ city fire departments, and ___#___ dispatch centers serving the county, a comprehensive communications plan is essential. Fire agencies and county personnel should make sure that everyone is made aware of the plan, and follows it.

This section will provide guidelines for agencies to use when interagency resources are working together on any nature of emergency incident. Individual agencies, working in their own areas without outside assistance may still use internal radio procedures, however a standardized protocol should be adopted when working with other departments.

71 FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT

There are a limited number of frequencies available for use by fire personnel, and during periods of heavy activity these frequencies may become saturated with radio traffic. The dispatch centers will work with incident commanders to assign tactical incident frequencies based on geographic and functional separation.

72 RADIO MESSAGE PRIORITIES

Before transmitting, individuals should monitor the radio channel for a short period to check for "clear" air time. The following types of radio traffic have priorities in the order shown:

1. Medical Emergencies
2. Imminent threat to life of property
3. Communications with aircraft engaged in tactical operations
4. Reports of new fires
5. Initial attack traffic
6. Incident support communications
7. Other (administrative)

73 FREQUENCY AUTHORIZATION

Most fire entities in the county are licensed for their own individual frequencies. Other departments wishing to program their radios with those frequencies must obtain written authorization from the licensee.

To ensure inter-operability among resources, all fire agencies will follow the Montana Mutual Aid Radio Plan which provides guidelines for the use of common frequencies. Each agency must have authorization from the Montana Department of Administration for the use of these

frequencies, and must abide by the conditions of the permit. By using the mutual aid radio plan, agencies do not need to program all of the other agency's licensed frequencies into their radios.

74 TERMINOLOGY

In accordance with the Incident Command System, all emergency service providers in the county should use "Clear Text" for radio communications (no 10-code). In addition, the common terminology provided by ICS should be used to identify or refer to various types of resources on incidents.

Radio frequencies should also be referred to by name, instead of channel number, since the same frequency may reside in a different channel location in different radios. For example, the fire mutual aid channel should be referred to as the "RED CHANNEL" instead of "Channel 4" (or where ever it is programmed into an agency's radio).

75 DESIGNATED FREQUENCIES

An updated list of frequencies, and agency radio capabilities, will be included in the Annual Operating Plan.

Each common frequency used in the county has a designated purpose, according to the incident function involved in the radio traffic. There are basically three functional types of messages: Command, Tactical and Administrative.

75.1 COMMAND CHANNELS

Agency command channels are primarily used for radio traffic between a dispatch office (base station) and field resources. All initial attack dispatching, incident support and agency administrative communications should take place on the following command channels:

- (A) _____ COUNTY (North End, East End, etcetera)
This channel is used by the Sheriff's office for all Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Service and Fire dispatching in the area _____. The repeater is on _____ mountain, accessed by the Sheriff's office by VHF radio. Fire Traffic on this channel should be kept to a minimum because of other uses.
- (B) _____ COUNTY (Other End, as and example)
This channel is used by the Sheriff's office for all Law Enforcement traffic on the _____ end of the county, and for dispatching the _____.

- (C) _____ FIRE
The Sheriff's office uses this channel to dispatch _____ Fire Department, _____ Rural Fire District, and _____ Rural Fire District. These fire agencies also use the channel for local fire communications.
- (D) _____ TRIBAL FIRE
The Tribal Fire Dispatch office in _____ uses this channel for dispatching it's fire resources on the reservation. The repeater for this channel is on _____ Mountain.
- (E) DNRC AREA/UNIT COMMAND
_____ Dispatch Center uses this channel to dispatch for fires in the _____ Area/Unit protection area, as well as for administrative traffic. The channel is used for direct communications or through repeaters on _____.
- (F) LOCAL FEDERAL
- (G) MAROON
This is an interagency, mutual aid command channel that is used state wide. At this time, _____ Dispatch Center is using it as a secondary command channel for agency fires and as a primary channel for contact with county resources.
- (H) _____ FOREST NET
_____ Dispatch Center in _____ uses this channel for dispatching resources on the _____ Ranger District, through a repeater on _____ Mountain. The District office in _____ also maintains a base station on this frequency.

75.2 TACTICAL AND COMMAND CHANNELS

All scene-of-action radio traffic between incident resources will take place on the following tactical channels, except for single-agency fires where an agency's licensed frequency may be used.

- (A) RED
The RED channel is the primary mutual aid channel used between fire resources from different agencies, when structural resources are involved. **The RED channel should be used for initial tactical communications whenever State, Federal, or Tribal resources are working on an incident with fire district resources.**
- (B) GOLD
The GOLD channel is used for inter-disciplinary communications. This is the common channel for use between fire, EMS, law enforcement, road department

and search & rescue resources. Some dispatch offices also have GOLD capabilities. This channel can be used as mutual aid or command, *not* tactical.

- (C) **YELLOW**
The YELLOW channel is licensed to DNRC for tactical radio traffic between it's own resources and resources from other agencies, if authorized by DNRC.
- (D) **GREEN**
The GREEN channel is licensed to DNRC for command radio traffic between Federal and State resources, if authorized by DNRC.
- (E) **WHITE**
The WHITE channel is used for Emergency Medical Services, such as ambulances, hospitals and Med-Evac helicopters.
- (F) **CORAL**
The CORAL channel may be used for tactical fire communications by structure fire departments.
- (G) **SCARLET**
The SCARLET channel may be used for tactical fire communications by structure fire departments.

The _____ County Association of Firefighters has established that all fire departments should have at least __#__ basic channels: ____, ____, MAROON, RED, GOLD, YELLOW, GREEN and WHITE. In addition to their own command channels, the wildland agencies should all have MAROON, RED, GOLD, YELLOW and GREEN. The following are some general guidelines to consider when establishing incident communications:

- (A) The Incident Commander is normally the only one on an incident that needs to communicate with dispatch on the command channel. Other resources should use the assigned tactical channels to conduct operations on the incident.
- (B) Firefighters engaged in fire control work should only have to monitor one channel, providing contact with a supervisor.
- (C) Supervisory personnel on the incident, such as engine bosses or strike team leaders, should only have to monitor two channels. One channel is used for directing subordinate resources, and one channel is for common use between supervisors and the I.C.
- (D) The I.C. may need to monitor three or more channels, depending on the number of other agencies involved with the incident (Command, Tactical, and Gold Mutual Aid). When the level of radio traffic increases along with incident

complexity, the I.C. should consider ordering or designating an incident radio operator to handle some of the workload.

- (E) A separate air-to-ground frequency should be identified for directing aircraft, and the I.C. should consider designating one person to handle tactical air operations.

CHAPTER 80 MOBILIZATION

81 EQUIPMENT

It could prove useful to list all fire equipment in the county in the Annual Operating Plan. As provided for in various agreements, agencies should strive to share equipment between each other when it is needed (and available), to provide for cost-effective fire protection service. Local government fire agencies needing additional equipment to strengthen their suppression capabilities should work through the Rural Fire Council to list equipment needs in the Annual Operating Plan.

One of the ways in which wildland fire agencies may compensate local government fire departments for their mutual aid assistance is to provide firefighting equipment to the departments. State and federal agencies are usually prohibited from "giving" equipment away, however they can loan items to fire departments to enhance their abilities. The following guidelines will apply to equipment loans from State, Federal and Tribal agencies:

- (A) Ownership of all property loaned will remain with the agency loaning the equipment. Agencies receiving the equipment will maintain the equipment and will return it upon demand, or when it is no longer needed or serviceable.
- (B) Wildland agencies will maintain an inventory list of all equipment loaned to rural fire departments, and updated lists will be included in the Annual Operating Agreement.
- (C) If desired, Federal and Tribal agencies may choose to transfer equipment to the State through the excess property process, and the State will then loan it to the departments.
- (D) Additional conditions governing loan of equipment from the State to the county are provided in the Cooperative Equipment Agreement, signed by the County (**Appendix D**).
- (E) All equipment is loaned under the condition that the loaning agency retains the right to use the equipment, if it is needed.
- (F) Loaned equipment may only be used for firefighting purposes.

Through the State/County Cooperative Fire program, the DNRC has already provided some equipment to the County for use in wildfire control, as listed in the Operating Plan.

All fire equipment hired by wildland agencies for project fires must meet NRCG standards for safety and capability. Rural fire department equipment will be signed-up in the springtime by the DNRC, using the Equipment Rental Agreement. A copy of the agreement, along with other forms, must be kept with fire apparatus available for contracted work. Guidelines for hiring fire equipment can be found in the NRCG's "Mobilization of Local Firefighting Resources" guide.

Private Contractors in the county are also an important source for fire suppression-related equipment. Traditionally, wildland fire agencies have relied solely on private sources, primarily logging contractors, for bulldozers used in constructing firelines. In addition, there are also a number of privately owned water trucks and initial attack fire engines available for fire suppression work under contract. During the fire season, wildland fire agencies keep active lists of this type of equipment, compiled from pre-season inspections and sign-ups. Owners of equipment that could be utilized in fire control operations should contact the wildland agency nearest to them.

82 PREPAREDNESS

82.1 RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

Wildland agency dispatch centers will maintain a daily availability list for their own resources according to their agency's guidelines. The _____ Dispatch Center will maintain a list of fire district and privately-owned resources available for dispatch to fires inside and outside of the county.

The Rural Fire Council will annually prepare a "Draw-Down" plan for the county, showing what types of equipment are available for use by other agencies, at different fire danger levels. The Draw-Down Plan will be included in the Annual Operating Plan, and will be provided to both _____ Dispatch Center and to _____ Interagency Coordination Center.

The State (DNRC), Montana State Fire Chiefs Association, and the Montana County Firewardens Association have created AZone Mobilization Boards, consisting of a member from each organization, within the various NRCG Zones. Members of this group should be utilized for support functions when it becomes necessary to mobilize large numbers of Local Government Forces. Taking these people and putting them in the dispatch centers could be a big help contacting personnel and equipment, and could help smooth out bumps in the system which develop whenever major mobilization efforts happen.

82.2 FIRE WEATHER FORECASTS

The National Weather Service sends fire weather forecasts to dispatch centers daily; twice a day during the core fire season. In addition, special weather statements and Red Flag Warnings are sent when dangerous weather conditions are expected. The dispatch

centers usually transmit these forecasts as they are received over agency command frequencies.

Local Government Fire agencies are encouraged to obtain fire weather forecasts by contacting the appropriate dispatch center to set up a suitable procedure. The _____ Dispatch Center will relay all Red Flag Warnings to the 911 center for notifying fire district personnel through the paging system.

Local Government Incident Commanders may also obtain "Spot Weather Forecasts" for individual fires from the Weather Service, through wildland dispatch offices. Weather observations from the fire must accompany the request; forms for these observations are available from the wildland agencies.

National Fire Danger Rating System indices are also available from the wildland fire dispatch centers. This system provides a daily numerical rating on the fire danger an area is experiencing, based on weather observations and fuel moisture analysis. This information includes a Probability of Ignition (IC), Energy Release Component (EC), Manning Class on a scale of 1 to 5 (MC), and the Burning Index (BI) which represents the predicted flame length for a given fuel type. The wildland agencies can provide assistance with interpreting these ratings.

82.3 PRE-ATTACK PLANS

Interagency Pre-Attack plans should be developed for all residential interface areas in the county. All parties involved in providing protection to an area must be involved in preparing, updating and implementing the plans, which should include the following:

Responsibilities	Response guides	Special hazards
Street Maps	Water sources	Attack plan
Evacuation Plan	Fuels map	Fire History

82.4 MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION

During periods of heavy wildfire activity, the Rural Fire Council should meet on a regular basis to discuss resource availability, special needs, logistical support, prevention actions, and other items related to interagency coordination. The Firewarden will work with the wildland agencies to set up a schedule for these meetings.

The Firewarden will be responsible for keeping track of the county fire situation, and will advise the DNRC Duty Officer as soon as it is apparent that State assistance to the county might be needed.

83 INITIAL ATTACK

83.1 INITIAL ATTACK RESPONSIBILITY

Each wildland agency and each local fire department will be responsible for providing an initial attack response to reported wildland fires within their jurisdiction. In overlapping protection areas, both agencies will respond to the fire and will **remain** on the fire until it is safe to leave.

For overlapping-protection fires, a division of functional responsibilities may be made wherein the local government fire agencies handles structural protection while the wildland agency establishes control lines. Both agencies, however, still have responsibility for suppressing the fire.

Wildfires occurring on the non-forested, privately owned lands lying outside of established fire districts are the responsibility of the county. Fire suppression will be provided by:

- (A) List area and what county fire agencies will respond.
- (B) List other areas and what county fire agencies will respond.

An Initial Attack Decision-Making Flow Chart will be provided for dispatchers and fire officials in the Operating Plan.

83.2 BOUNDARY FIRES

When a fire is burning on both sides of a single jurisdiction boundary and forces of both agencies respond, each agency will be responsible for suppression actions in their respective jurisdictions. The agencies will cooperate to the fullest extent possible with each other in suppressing the fire. Unified command will be utilized whenever appropriate to handle the fire as one joint operation.

83.3 INDEPENDENT ACTIONS

If an agency determines that a fire occurring outside of its jurisdiction poses a threat to lands within its jurisdiction, the agency may take independent action to suppress the fire. **The agency responsible for the fire will be notified immediately.** Efforts will be made to work with the responsible agency, and no agency's actions should impede the actions of the other agency. Costs incurred on an independent action are non-reimbursable.

83.4 INCIDENT COMMAND

All fire suppression agencies in the county will use the Incident Command System (ICS) to manage wildland fires. ICS training is available from the DNRC, and the other Wildland Agencies, and any planned courses will be identified in the Annual Operating Plan.

A Unified Command will (should?) be established on incidents in overlapping fire protection areas. In these circumstances, officers in charge of both the wildland fire agency and the Local Government fire agencies will work together to set incident strategies and objectives. Since both entities have a legal obligation to suppress wildfires in the overlapping protection areas, neither agency can unilaterally assume full responsibility. Likewise, neither agency can compel the other agency to withdraw from the fire. Strategic decisions on the incident should be made jointly; however, each agency is compelled to follow its own mandate and guidelines. On more complex fires, other agencies may also be involved in the Unified Command, such as the Sheriff or the Firewarden representing the County Commissioners.

All resources assigned to an incident will be made aware of the Incident Commander's name(s), how to reach the I.C.(s), and the location of the Incident Command Post (ICP). This information will also be provided to the dispatch center.

All resources arriving on an incident will be provided with a thorough briefing by the I.C. or someone designated by the I.C, which should include the following:

Incident status	Planned Strategy	Resource Assignment
Safety factors	Communications	Incident Organization

84 ASSISTANCE

84.1 MUTUAL AID

All requests for fire district Mutual Aid assistance should be placed with the 911 center in _____, either by radio or by phone. The requesting agency must be specific as to what type of resources they need, where they are to report to and what frequency to use. It is recommended that staging areas be set up to receive incoming resources.

Requests should be made first for resources from neighboring jurisdictions, or under certain circumstances, a county-wide call for assistance may be needed.

Guidelines for Mutual Aid between Local Government fire agencies and State and Federal wildland agencies may be found in section 31 of this plan. Mutual aid during the initial attack phase of a fire is non-reimbursable (**the first ____ hours on the fire are free**).

For fires in overlapping protection areas, it doesn't matter to mutual aid providers which agency makes the request for mutual aid; assisting agencies will be working for the Unified Command.

Law enforcement personnel (traffic control) and emergency medical services will be requested through the Sheriff's office.

84.2 CONTRACTED ASSISTANCE

Assistance actions between wildland agencies is governed by the provisions of cooperative agreements between the agencies.

Wildland agencies may hire resources from local fire departments for continued assistance beyond the initial attack phase of the fire. All personnel and equipment hired must meet minimum standards established in the NRCG "Mobilization of Local Fire-fighting Resources" guide, and will be paid according to the NRCG Supplement to the AInteragency Incident Business Management Handbook. The State is the hiring agency, even for employment on Federal fires (again, consult the NRCG Mobilization of Local Firefighting Resources guide for details).

Resources that responded to an initial attack fire under Mutual Aid may be hired under contract after __#__ hours on the fire, if the responsible wildland agency specifically requests them to stay. Although conditions of hire may be negotiated on site, resources under hire must usually make a commitment to stay on the fire as long as needed.

The wildland agency dispatch centers will usually be responsible for contacting fire district chiefs directly to hire district resources. Assistance from the Firewarden (or the local Zone Mobilization Board) will often help speed up this process.

A rural fire district with jurisdiction for a fire will be financially responsible for any hired resources or supplies requested by it's personnel. **Only those resources requested by wildland fire agency personnel will be paid for by the wildland agency.**

Local Government Agencies will not be paid for suppression work performed in their own jurisdiction, since they have a legal mandate to fight those fires.

84.3 COUNTY ASSISTANCE

Through the State/County Cooperative Fire program, the DNRC will provide assistance to the county for fires that exceed the county's ability to handle. This assistance is only provided on fires that the county, or its fire departments, are entirely responsible for; fires in overlapping protection areas with Recognized Wildland Agencies are excluded.

When a fire exceeds a local county fire department's capability to suppress, the county needs to mobilize its available resources to assist in the effort. The first line of support is through a county-wide mutual aid request within the county. If firefighting forces/resources are not available sufficient to take care of the problem, than adjacent county mutual aid should be requested (where agreements exist). The County Firewarden will become involved in resource mobilization when a wildfire exceeds county fire agency=s capabilities.

County-owned resources must also be requested, if they can be effective. These resources may include water trucks, dozers, or graders from the county road department. Fire districts should use pre-established procedures for contacting the road district foreman to request equipment.

The county may request assistance from the State or its cooperators on smaller or non-critical fires to prevent them from escaping and becoming costly project sized fires. Assistance may be provided if the wildland agency determines that the need exists, that resources are available in a useful time frame, and that the needed resources will be effective in containing the fire.

In order to receive State assistance for major fires, the following guidelines must be followed:

- (A) The County Firewarden will keep the DNRC Duty Officer informed of the county fire situation to provide lead time on critical fires that threaten to exceed the county's capabilities.
- (B) When assistance is needed, the Firewarden will make a request to the local Area/Unit office or the _____ Dispatch Center if this is the point of contact for this individual. Although a verbal request will suffice where time is critical, a written request for assistance from the County Commissioners must be sent to the DNRC Forestry Division Administrator within 48 hours.
- (C) The appropriate DNRC official will evaluate the request and determine whether or not the county has in fact exceeded its capabilities and if assistance is actually needed.
- (D) The initial order for suppression resources must be approved by the DNRC _____ Area/Unit Office.
- (E) The DNRC can provide a County Fire Advisor to assist the Incident Commander. He will make specific recommendations as to manpower and equipment needed for the fire, and may also advise the County I.C. on tactics and how to better utilize the existing forces.

- (F) At no time will the State assume responsibility for a fire that the county is legally responsible for; the State will only be assisting.
- (G) State assistance will consist of whatever manpower and equipment is required by the county's Incident Commander to control the fire. State forces will be withdrawn from the fire when agreement has been reached between the county's Incident Commander and the State that the county is capable of handling the remainder of fire activities adequately.
- (H) Only those resources ordered by the State will be paid for by the State. Other Federal or Tribal wildland agencies may provide assistance to the county, however the State will not be responsible for payment unless the State specifically requested their assistance.

85 EXTENDED ATTACK

Procedures for handling extended attack fires in wildland agency jurisdictions are covered under individual agency fire plans. For extended attack fires in overlapping protection areas, both fire agencies will continue to work together to suppress the fire and each agency will be responsible for its own costs. In most instances, the recognized wildland agency will assume full responsibility for major suppression costs, other than those costs incurred by the fire district..

85.1 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAMS

When an overhead team is assigned to an incident in a joint protection area, it is important to retain a Unified Command, or at least to keep the local rural fire chief involved in incident operations.

When Type III overhead teams are assigned for small-scale extended attack incidents, efforts should be made to utilize qualified personnel from local agencies to minimize costs and to provide training opportunities.

On Type I and II incidents, the hosting wildland agency should ensure that a liaison is provided by the county, representing the County Commissioners, county resources, the Sheriff and the DES Coordinator.

85.2 EVACUATION

Although the actual evacuation of residents threatened by a wildland fire is the county's responsibility, through the county sheriff, it is up to the Incident Commander to determine when it is needed. Procedures for initiating evacuations can be found in the county's Emergency Operating Plan.

To assist fire personnel in planning for evacuations, a blank copy of an "Incident Evacuation Plan" is included in **Appendix H**.

86 FIRE FOLLOW-UP

86.1 INVESTIGATION

Fire cause investigation is the responsibility of the fire protection agency (agencies) with jurisdiction for a fire, and is handled according to each agency's own policies. Trained wildland fire investigators from the wildland agencies are available to assist the county or its fire departments, if needed.

If arson is suspected as a fire cause, agencies should notify the sheriff's office early in the investigation, since the county may ultimately be prosecuting the case. The formation of an interagency arson investigation team should be considered for complex cases, and when a series of related arson fires are experienced.

There are a number of situations where one agency's fire problem could turn into another agency's problem. Fire protection agency's should share fire-cause information with the other agencies to identify patterns, and to take appropriate fire prevention measures.

86.2 FIRE COST BILLING

Agencies will follow their own guidelines for billing responsible parties for fire cost reimbursement. In accordance with Region One policy, the USFS will seek concurrence from the DNRC before pursuing payment from parties responsible for starting significant fires on private land in Forest Service fire protection areas.

In general, it is the policy of DNRC to seek reimbursement for suppression costs from any party that causes a wildfire, either through negligence or by allowing intentionally-started controlled fires to escape by accident.

Fire cost billing can be an effective prevention tool for local rural fire departments as well, however it is their discretion whether or not to bill. Landowners pay taxes to support the operation of the fire district/fire service areas; their taxes do not give them the right to start fires that could put firefighters and property at risk. If fire districts elect to start billing negligent parties, it is important to establish a **consistent** billing policy that is not applied arbitrarily.

86.3 FIRE CRITIQUES

After significant fires, personnel representing all agencies involved with the fire should meet to critique their actions. The main purpose of these critiques is to identify problems

and to improve firefighting operations. Critiques should be constructive in nature, and not a means for pointing fingers or placing blame. Topics should include:

- Fire Prevention Needs
- Effectiveness of Plans, Policies and Guidelines
- Dispatching Procedures
- Initial Attack Response / Tactics
- Interagency Cooperation
- Safety Problems
- Training Needs
- Communications

In addition to incident critiques, a county-wide annual fire review should be held after the fire season to discuss those things that worked well and those things that didn't work well. This review could be held in conjunction with the fall meeting of the _____ County Firefighters Association, and significant findings should be incorporated into the next year's Annual Operating Plan.

87 MOBILIZATION FOR OFF-COUNTY REQUESTS

Resource orders for local government fire personnel and equipment will usually be coordinated by the _____ Dispatch Center, which receives and processes requests from the _____ Interagency Coordination Center in _____.

Since no single agency in the county has the ability to provide multiple pieces of equipment, strike teams and task forces may be formed with resources from many different agencies. A qualified strike team/task force leader will be assigned by _____ Dispatch Center, and all resources will be working for that person.

All personnel and equipment hired for wildfire suppression work must meet the minimum standards described in the NRCG's "Mobilization of Local Firefighting Resources" guidelines. If needed, the DNRC, or other wildland agencies, may be able to loan personal protective equipment to local government fire personnel being dispatched. The equipment must be returned at the end of the assignment, or the cost will be deducted from the any payment made to the local departments.

MAPS -- Protection Areas

Included with Sample #1

EXAMPLES

PROTECTION AREA MAPS

(Available from Fire & Aviation Management Bureau)

APPENDIX A DEFINITIONS

Acting Command Officer: A fire district or fire department officer designated or authorized to make command decisions in the absence of the Chief Officer.

Agency: One of the parties to this fire management plan.

Annual Operating Plan: A local working document, between fire protection agencies, that is within the framework of the cooperative agreement and spells out annual procedures to be followed.

Assisting Agency: An agency responding, at the request of another, to an incident outside their normal jurisdiction or to a type of incident for which the agency is not directly responsible.

Billable Party: Any person or persons who, under State statutes, are liable for fire suppression costs incurred by a fire protection agency.

Boundary Line Fire: A fire which burns across the boundary between the single jurisdiction of one agency and the single or overlapping jurisdiction of another agency.

Causes of Fires: For statistical purposes forest fires are grouped into broad cause classes. The nine general causes are lightning, campfire, smoking, debris burning, incendiary, machine use, railroad, children and miscellaneous.

Containment: To surround a wildfire and any spot fire therefrom with a control line as needed, which can reasonably be expected to check the fire's spread within an area under prevailing and predicted conditions.

Cooperating Agency: Agencies who have, under this fire management plan, agreed to coordinate wildland fire control efforts and render assistance to each other.

County Fire Advisor: The DNRC County Fire Advisor will work with the County incident commander in an advisory capacity, making specific recommendations as to manpower and equipment needs on fires and providing advice on how to better organize and utilize existing forces. The advisor is required to be familiar with the County cooperative fire program and have prior training and experience in both timber and grassland fire behavior. The minimum fire qualifications for the CFA are those of division/group supervisor.

DNRC: The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (formerly the Montana Department of State Lands).

Escaped Campfire: A fire that was started for cooking, heating or providing light or warmth that spreads sufficiently from its source to require action by a protection agency.

Escaped Debris Burning Fire: A wildfire spreading from any fire originally intentionally set for hazard reduction, clean-up, site preparation or fuel manipulation.

Fire Prevention: Activities which reduce the number of, or the negative aspects from wildfires, including (for example) reduction of fire risks, public education, personal contacts, closures and regulated use.

Forest Land: Land meeting the detailed definitions of forest land as specified by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC).

Incident Commander (IC): The Incident Commander provides overall command of the incident, sets objectives, and supervises the ordering and release of resources.

Incident Command System (ICS): The combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure with responsibility for the management of assigned resources to effectively accomplish stated objectives pertaining to an incident.

Independent Action: Suppression action taken by an agency when a fire on another agency's land constitutes a threat to lands of the responding agency.

Initial Attack: The prompt initial fire suppression response to a wildland fire.

Overlapping Protection: Area where the jurisdiction of a rural fire district/fire service area overlaps that of a wildfire protection agency.

Lightning Fire: A fire caused directly or indirectly by lightning.

Multi-Division Fire Incident Team: A team with set membership, trained and prepared to handle complex fires which have been divided into divisions (usually exceeding 300 operational personnel per operational period). Includes IC, 2 Operations Chiefs, Safety Officer, Planning Chief, Logistics Chief and Finance Chief. **NOTE**: As of 1997, Region 1 is requiring an FBA also.

National Fire Danger Rating System: A computerized system which, by utilizing field input, enables users to identify critical levels of fire danger, probability of fire occurrence, and fire behavior potential.

Normal Response: Dispatch of personnel and/or equipment which constitutes a legally or operationally expected response.

Overhead: Personnel who are trained and qualified to perform in command or supervisory roles.

Protection Agency: Any local government fire agency or a wildland fire protection agency having responsibility for providing wildland fire protection to an area. Fire protection includes prevention, detection, pre-planning, suppression and follow-up.

Requesting Agency: A responsible fire protection agency which requests assistance from a cooperating agency.

Senior Agency Representative: The ranking fire fighter or officer representing an agency at a fire scene.

Single Jurisdiction: Areas in which a single agency maintains responsibility for all aspects of fire control.

Slash: Branches, bark, tops, cull logs, uprooted stumps, and broken or uprooted trees left on the ground after logging; also debris resulting from thinnings or wind.

Structural Fire: Fires which originate in, and are largely confined to, structures.

Suppression: All the work of extinguishing or confining a fire, beginning with its discovery.

Tender: A vehicle carrying more than 1,000 gallons of water, which may or may not have pumping capability, but normally will carry a quick dump or transfer equipment.

Unified Command: In a unified command structure, the individuals designated by their jurisdictions (or by departments within a single jurisdiction) must jointly determine objectives, strategy, and priorities.

Wildland Fire: A fire that burns in vegetation, or associated flammable materials. Structural fires are not wildland fires.

**APPENDIX B
OPERATING PLAN FORMAT**

This is the stuff that could change annually, and if it does, this is the part that would get updated and sent out to all involved parties.

I. ORGANIZATION (Names & Numbers)

- A. County
- B. State Agencies
- C. U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
- D. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- E. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- F. Other Federal Agencies
- G. _____ Tribes

II. COOPERATION

- A. Updates to Mutual Aid Agreements
- B. Local Memos of Understanding

III. TRAINING

- A. Planned Training Courses
- B. Planned Exercises

IV. PREVENTION [OPTIONAL]

- A. Planned Prevention Activities
- B. Fuels Modification Projects

V. EQUIPMENT [OPTIONAL]

- A. County
- B. State Agencies (DNRC)
- C. Federal Agencies
- D. Tribal

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Frequency Lists

VII. MOBILIZATION

- A. Initial Attack Flow Chart
- B. Protection Responsibilities/Boundary Updates

APPENDIX C

F-200
FILE #101

COOPERATIVE FIRE CONTROL AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE STATE OF MONTANA
AND _____ COUNTY

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into by and between _____ County, hereinafter called the COOPERATOR, and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Forestry Division, hereinafter called the DEPARTMENT, and effective the _____ day of _____, 19 ____ .

The purpose of this agreement, when signed by both parties and accompanied by a written wildland fire management plan, hereinafter called the PLAN, is to satisfy the requirements of Montana Code Annotated section 7-33-2210.

The parties to this agreement, in consideration of the mutual covenants and stipulations set out herein, agree as follows:

1. The COOPERATOR shall assist the DEPARTMENT in drafting and annually updating the PLAN for the fire protection area within the COOPERATOR's territorial boundaries.
2. The COOPERATOR shall appoint a County Rural Fire Chief/Firewarden pursuant to Montana Code Annotated section 7-33-2203. The County Fire Chief/Firewarden shall work directly with the DEPARTMENT in accordance with the requirements of the PLAN.
3. The COOPERATOR is authorized to annually appropriate funds pursuant to Montana Code Annotated section 7-33-2209. The COOPERATOR shall use these funds in accordance with the requirements of the PLAN.
4. The COOPERATOR shall implement the PLAN by performance of the duties imposed by Montana Code Annotated sections 7-33—2202 and 7-33-2203. The COOPERATOR may exercise the powers authorized by Montana Code Annotated sections 7-33-2205, 7-33-2206 and 7-33-2208.
5. The DEPARTMENT shall update the PLAN and present it for the approval of the COOPERATOR no later than May 15 of each year.
6. The DEPARTMENT shall, as funds permit, provide assistance to the COOPERATOR in accordance with the requirements of the PLAN. Equipment made available to the COOPERATOR by the DEPARTMENT shall comply with the stipulations set forth in the COOPERATIVE EQUIPMENT AGREEMENT F-202.
7. It is mutually agreed that both parties shall meet annually to review this agreement and the PLAN. The DEPARTMENT shall schedule the annual meeting and shall notify all affected parties of the date and location of the meeting.

8. It is mutually agreed that this agreement may be terminated at any time by mutual consent of the parties. In the absence of mutual consent, either party may terminate this agreement on June 30 of any year by giving written notice to the other party on or before June 1 of that year. Unless terminated in accordance with this provision, this agreement will continue in full force and effect for an additional period of one year beginning July 1 of each year.

COUNTY OF _____:
RESOURCES AND

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
CONSERVATION:

BY _____

BY _____

BY _____

DIRECTOR

BY _____

ATTEST:

BY _____

BY _____
ADMINISTRATOR,
FORESTRY DIVISION

APPENDIX D

F-202

FILE #101

COOPERATIVE EQUIPMENT AGREEMENT

between

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
FORESTRY DIVISION

and

COUNTY	COUNTY'S Address
---------------	-------------------------

This Cooperative Equipment Agreement is made between _____ County, hereinafter referred to as the COUNTY, and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Forestry Division, represented by and hereinafter referred to as the STATE:

WHEREAS on, _____, 20____, the COUNTY enter into a Fire Control Agreement with the STATE for the protection from fire of State and private forest, range, farm, and watershed resources within its protection area; and

WHEREAS, the COUNTY can more adequately carry out this function, as described and set forth in Montana Code Annotated sections 7-33-2201 through 7-33-2212, as amended, if additional equipment is available; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, from time to time, has a limited number of vehicles or other equipment suitable for fire fighting that can be made available to other agencies involved in fire control work; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined to be advantageous to the STATE in the proper discharge of its responsibilities as set forth in Montana Code Annotated sections 76-13-104 and 76-13-136, as amended, to make certain surplus federal government equipment available to the COUNTY;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is mutually agreed:

1. The STATE will loan specific items of fire fighting equipment, when such equipment is available, to the COUNTY in accordance with the mutually established fire plan and its amendments, and applicable Federal laws, rules and regulations.
2. The COUNTY agrees to make the above equipment available for use on private and public ownership for the protection from fire as set forth in Montana Code Annotated sections 7-33-2201, 7-33-2202, 76-13-104, and 76-13-136, and when requested by the STATE'S representative. Incidental use on any type of fire or other emergencies which threaten loss of life or property is proper providing that this equipment is available and primarily used for fire duties as set forth in Montana Code Annotated sections 76-13-104, 76-13-136, 7-33-2201 and 7-33-2202. Refusal or neglect to make this equipment available for use on such fires without good and sufficient cause shall be grounds for termination of this Agreement by the STATE.
3. The proper identification of the equipment as cooperative fire equipment, and as federal or state property, if applicable, will be maintained and the equipment will not be sold,

junked, rented, traded, given away, nor is personal use to be allowed. No disassembly of equipment or removal of parts is allowed without prior approval of the STATE. All State or Federal property is to be painted and marked in accordance with State statutes or STATE'S instructions.

4. Title to all equipment loaned under this Agreement will remain with the State of Montana or Federal government. All vehicles will bear the permanent Montana Agency (State-owned) license plate furnished by the State without charge.
5. The COUNTY is solely responsible for the proper use, protection, maintenance, and care of the equipment and supplies loaned under this Agreement.
6. The COUNTY shall maintain and make necessary repairs to the said equipment and component parts thereof so that it is kept in good, serviceable and safe repair.
7. The STATE will maintain an inventory of the equipment made available through this Agreement.
8. The COUNTY will assure that all operators of the equipment covered by this Agreement meet the appropriate minimum driver's license requirements per Montana State law and are members of either a Rural Fire District, County Volunteer Rural Fire Department, Fire Service Area, or Municipal Fire Department.
9. The STATE will assume the costs for property damage to the loaned equipment only. The COUNTY is solely responsible and will assume the costs for any damage or personal injuries caused by the use, including, but not limited to, the improper, negligent, or wrongful use, of the equipment loaned under this agreement. The COUNTY will assume the cost for any damaged miscellaneous equipment, such as separate pumps, hose, tools, and supplies, that were not loaned or supplied by the STATE.
10. The COUNTY shall provide Workers= Compensation Insurance coverage on drivers, passengers or workers using or working with any equipment loaned under this agreement.
11. COUNTY acknowledges and agrees that the equipment or supplies loaned under this agreement carry no express or implied warranty and, on behalf of itself and its agents, successors and assigns, agrees that it shall make no claim against the STATE, the State of Montana or the Federal Government based upon any defect, whether apparent or not, in such loaned equipment or supplies.
12. The COUNTY agrees to indemnify, defend and hold the STATE, and the Federal Government harmless from any and all claims, or causes of action arising out of the use or condition of the equipment or supplies loaned under this Agreement.
13. Loss, damage, or destruction of State- or Federally-owned equipment by fire, collision, theft, or any other means, will be reported immediately to the STATE with signed affidavit showing loss, cause and recovery action attempted by the COUNTY. Accidents involving State- or Federally-owned equipment must be reported immediately by the COUNTY to the STATE on forms provided for that purpose. Federal policy requires investigation to determine the cause of negligence, if any.
14. The COUNTY agrees to permit and assist in inventory and inspection of fire equipment procured under this Agreement as may be necessary to promote the effective use of this equipment, whether it be State-owned or Federal excess property.

15. Items of equipment covered by this Agreement no longer needed by the COUNTY will be reported to the STATE, who will determine disposition.
16. If this Agreement or the Fire Control Agreement between the STATE and the COUNTY is terminated by either party, all equipment provided by the STATE will be returned to the STATE.
17. Any equipment owned and installed by the COUNTY remains the property of the COUNTY and should be removed prior to returning the equipment to the STATE.
18. The Agreement shall be effective for an indefinite period and may be terminated by either party hereto by thirty (30) days written notice. If the COUNTY terminates this Agreement, the equipment covered by this Agreement will be returned to the STATE in operable condition.

		COUNTY

		(Title)
Date _____	BY _____	_____

		MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION:
		(Title)
Date _____	BY _____	_____
		(Forestry Division Administrator or Land Office Area Manager)

APPENDIX E
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
_____ COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS

ARTICLE ___#___ -
Section 1 -

This Association shall perform the functions of a County Rural Fire Council, with duties and responsibilities meeting the requirements of such a Council as set forth in the State/County Cooperative Fire Management program.

Section 2 -

The duties and responsibilities of the Association, acting as the Rural Fire Council, shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. Coordinate implementation of the Cooperative Fire Management Plan and the Annual Operating Plan, as required by the State/County Cooperative Agreement.
- b. Make recommendations to the _____ County Board of Commissioners for appointment of a County Rural Fire Chief (Firewarden) and any assistant Firewardens that may be needed. The Firewarden will perform the duties of a County Rural Fire Chief, as defined in 7-33-2202(2) and 7-33-2203 M.C.A., as well as those duties described in the Cooperative Fire Management Plan.
- c. Provide expertise, and make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners, through the Firewarden, in wildland fire related matters. These issues may include the establishment of Fire Seasons, Burning Permit Guidelines, Fire Restrictions, and Planning Reviews.
- d. Identify and work towards resolving fire related problems in the county, with a goal of preventing destructive wildfires and assuring that all areas of the county have at least a minimal level of wildland fire protection.
- e. Identify equipment and training needed for the safe and efficient control of wildfires, and recommend assignment of equipment received by the county under the State/County Cooperative Fire program.

**APPENDIX F
EXISTING DEVELOPMENT
FORM A - FIELD DATA COLLECTION FORM
(Rev. 3/93)**

RATING AREA: _____ DATE: _____ RATED BY:

- 1) NUMBER OF PRIMARY ACCESS ROADS**
- 2) NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVE ACCESS ROUTES**
- 3) WIDTH OF ROAD SURFACE + SHOULDER ON PRIMARY ACCESS ROADS**
- 4) MAXIMUM ROAD GRADE IN THE AREA (PRIMARY, ALT., SECONDARY)**
- 5) SECONDARY ROADS END AS:**

Loops or > 90' Diameter Cul de Sacs

70-90' Diameter Cul de Sacs

< 70' Diameter Cul de Sacs

Dead Ends - No Cul de Sac

- 6) BRIDGES ON PRIMARY ACCESS ROADS ARE:**

> 40 Ton Capacity

20-40 Ton Capacity

< 20 Ton Capacity

No Bridges

- 7) BRIDGES ON SECONDARY ROADS ARE:**

20-40 Ton Capacity

< 20 Ton Capacity

No Bridges

- 8) PREDOMINANT SLOPE IN AND AROUND THE INHABITED AREA IS:**

0 - 10%

11 - 20%

21 - 30%

> 30%

9) PREDOMINANT ASPECT IS:

North (316 degrees through 45 degrees)

East (46 degrees through 135 degrees)

Level

West (226 degrees through 315 degrees)

South (136 degrees through 225 degrees)

10) DANGEROUS TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES PRESENT ARE:

None

Adjacent Steep Slopes

Draws/Ravines

Chimneys, Canyons, Saddles

11) PREDOMINANT FUEL TYPE IS:

Grass will be the main fuel type in the rating area around more than 90% of existing structures.

Low brush fields, or open timber stands will exist in the rating area around more than 10% of existing structures.

Dense timber stands or high brush fields will exist in the rating area around more than 10% of existing structures.

Slash and/or bug-killed timber stands will exist in rating area and won't be removed by development or dense stands of lodgepole pine trees will remain around more than 10% of existing structures.

12) RISKS PRESENT ARE:

Campgrounds/Campsites/Picnic Grounds

Children (playgrounds, schools, etc.)

Commercial Businesses

Debris Burning

Domestic Wood Heat

**Farming/Ranching
Mills**

Mines

Powerlines

Railroads

Recreation Sites (gun clubs, 4x4/motorbike areas, kegger sites, etc.)

Travel Routes (highways, etc.)

Other(s) - Describe each

13) WORST-CASE ELECTRICAL SERVICE IS:

All utilities in the existing development rating area are underground.

Rating area utilities will include underground and/or well maintained above ground powerlines with cleared rights-of-way. Trees or improvements which could blow over into powerlines do not exist or are properly maintained.

Rating area utilities include above ground powerlines. Fuel build-up is present in existing rights-of-way, or improvements exist which could blow over onto powerlines.

14) HOW MANY HOMES ARE IN THE RATING AREA?

15) HOW MANY HOMES HAVE FIRE RESISTANT ROOFING?

16) HOW MANY HOMES HAVE UNENCLOSED BALCONIES, DECKS, EAVES, STILTS, CANTILEVERED CONSTRUCTION, ETC.?

17) HOMES ARE SPACED:

> 100' Apart

60-100'

< 60' Apart

18) HOW MANY HOMES MEET THE FIRE-RESISTANT LANDSCAPING GUIDELINES (See Appendix F)

19) ARE HYDRANTS AVAILABLE?

Yes

No

20) IF YES, AT WHAT SPACING?

21) IF YES, ARE THEY 500(+) GPM?

Yes

No

22) DRAFT SOURCES ARE:

Accessible By Hoselay

Within 5 Miles Via Primary Access Roads

Available, But Need To Be Developed

Distant or Unavailable

23) HELICOPTER DIP SPOTS ARE:

Under 2 minute turnaround (< 1 mi.)

Within 2-5 minute turnaround (1-2 mi.)

Within 6 minute turnaround (3 mi.)

Distant or Unavailable

24) IS RATING AREA IN A RURAL FIRE DISTRICT, FIRE SERVICE AREA OR MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPARTMENT?

Yes

No

25) FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE:

Fire dept. can respond w/in 5 minutes - VFC?

Fire dept. can respond in 6-15 minutes - VFC?

Fire dept. can respond in 16-30 minutes - VFC?

26) IS THERE A WAY TO CONTACT HOMEOWNERS?

Yes

No

27) IF YES, WHAT TYPE OF GROUP(S)?

Formal, Well Organized Group

Informal, Loosely Organized Group

Multiple Groups

28) AVERAGE NUMBER OF FIRES/1000 AC./10 YEARS

FORM B - RESIDENTIAL TALLY SHEET

RATING AREA _____

1 Total No. Residences	2 No. with Fire Resistant Roof	3 No. with Unenclosed Features	4 60' to Next Residence	5 60'-100' to next Residence	6 100' to Next Residence	7 Meets Landscaping Req. (Appendix F)

DOT OR LINE TALLY EACH ITEM.

- 1) TALLY TOTAL NUMBER OF RESIDENCES IN RATING AREA.
- 2) TALLY NUMBER OF RESIDENCES WITH FIRE RESISTANT ROOFING (COMPOSITE, METAL, TILE) NO WOOD SHAKES OR SHINGLES.
- 3) TALLY NUMBER OF RESIDENCES WITH OVERHANGING FEATURES WHICH ARE NOT ENCLOSED UNDERNEATH DECK OR FLOOR LEVEL (BALCONIES, DECKS, STILTS, ETC.)
- 4) TALLY NUMBER OF RESIDENCES WHICH HAVE LESS THAN 60 FEET BETWEEN THEM AND THE NEAREST ADJACENT RESIDENCE.
- 5) TALLY THE NUMBER OF RESIDENCES WHICH HAVE 60' - 100' BETWEEN THEM AND THE NEAREST ADJACENT RESIDENCE.
- 6) TALLY THE NUMBER OF RESIDENCES WITH 100' BETWEEN THEM AND THE NEAREST ADJACENT RESIDENCE.
- 7) TALLY THE NUMBER OF RESIDENCES THAT MEET THE FIRE RESISTANT LANDSCAPING STANDARDS FOR THEIR LOCATION.

**EXISTING DEVELOPMENT
FORM C - RATING FORM
(Rev. 3/93)**

RATING AREA: _____ **DATE:** _____ **RATED BY:** _____

ROADS

ROAD ACCESS - Items 1 and 2

- Multiple primary access roads = 0
- Two primary access roads = 1
- One primary + one alternative access road = 2
- One-way in/out = 3
- No primary access roads = 4

ROAD SURFACE WIDTH, PRIMARY ACCESS ROUTES - Item 3

- > 28' Road Surface + Shoulder = 1
- 28' Road Surface + Shoulder = 2
- 16 - < 28' Road Surface + Shoulder = 3
- < 16' Road Surface + Shoulder = 4

MAXIMUM ROAD GRADE - Item 4

- 0-5% = 1
- 6-8% = 2
- > 8 - 10% = 3
- > 10% = 4

SECONDARY ROAD ENDINGS - Item 5

- Loops or > 90' Diameter Cul de Sacs = 1
- Cul de Sac Diameter 70-90' = 2
- Cul de Sac Diameter <70' = 3
- Dead Ends - No Cul de Sac = 4

BRIDGES - Items 6 and 7

- No Bridges = 1
- 40 Ton(+) limit on access bridges = 2
- 20-39 Ton limit on all access bridges = 3
- < 20 Ton limit any access bridge = 4

TOPOGRAPHY

SLOPE - Item 8

- 0-10% = 2
- 11-20% = 4
- 21-30% = 6
- > 30% = 8

ASPECT - Item 9

- North (315 degrees through 45 degrees) = 0
- East (46 degrees through 135 degrees) = 1
- Level = 2
- West (226 degrees through 315 degrees) = 3
- South (136 degrees through 225 degrees) = 4

MOST DANGEROUS FEATURE - Item 10

- None = 2
- Adjacent Steep Slopes = 4
- Draws/Ravines = 6
- Chimneys, Canyons, Saddles = 8

FUELS

FUEL TYPE - Item 11

- Grass around >90% of structures = 5
- Low brush field, or open timber around >10% of structures = 10
- Dense conifer or brush field exist around >10% of structures = 15
- Slash, bug-kill, dense lodgepole pine exist around >10% of structures = 20

RISK SOURCES - total from Item 12

- 0-4 Risk Sources Present = 5
- 5-8 Risk Sources Present = 10
- 9-12 Risk Sources Present = 15
- 13+ Risk Sources Present = 20

ELECTRICAL UTILITIES - Item 13

- All Underground = 0
- Above Ground/Underground Combination (Well Maintained) = 10
- Above Ground (Poorly Maintained) = 20

HOMES

ROOF MATERIAL - Item 15

- 90-100% of homes have metal, composition, tile or other fire resistant roofing = 5
- 80-89% of homes have metal, composition, tile or other fire resistant roofing = 10
- 75-79% of homes have metal, composition, tile or other fire resistant roofing = 15
- < 75% of homes have metal, composition, tile or other fire resistant roofing = 20

UNENCLOSED BALCONIES, DECKS, EAVES, STILTS, ETC. - Item 16

- < 10% of homes have unenclosed balconies, decks, eaves, stilts, etc. = 1
- 10-20% of homes have unenclosed balconies, decks, eaves, stilts, etc. = 2
- 21-25% of homes have unenclosed balconies, decks, eaves, stilts, etc. = 3
- > 25% of homes have unenclosed balconies, decks, eaves, stilts, etc. = 5

DENSITY OF HOMES - Item 17

- (For 0-30% slope)
 - > 100' between homes = 1
 - 60-100' between homes = 3
 - < 60' between homes = 5
- (For 31-50% slope)
 - > 100' between homes = 2
 - 60-100' between homes = 4
 - < 60' between homes = 6

LANDSCAPING - Item 18

- 76-100% homes meet the fire-resistant landscaping guidelines in the Appendix F = 2
- 51-75% homes meet the fire-resistant landscaping guidelines in the Appendix F = 4
- 26-50% homes meet the fire-resistant landscaping guidelines in the Appendix F = 6
- 0-25% homes meet the fire-resistant landscaping guidelines in the Appendix F = 9

WATER SUPPLY

HYDRANTS - Items 19, 20 and 21

- 500 GPM hydrants available on < 660' spacing = 2
- 500 GPM hydrants available = 4
- < 500 GPM hydrants available = 6
- No hydrants = 8

DRAFT SOURCES - Item 22

- Accessible Sources Available Within Hoselay Distance = 2
- Draft Sources Available Within 5 mi. via primary access roads = 4
- Draft Sources Require Development = 6
- Draft Sources Unavailable = 8

HELICOPTER DIP SPOTS - Item 23

- Under 2 min. turnaround (<1 mi.) = 1
- Within 2-5 min. turnaround (1-2 mi.) = 2
- Within 6 min. turnaround (3 mi.) = 3
- Beyond 6 min. turnaround or Unavailable = 4

STRUCTURAL FIRE PROTECTION - Items 24 and 25

- <= 5 min. from fire department = 5; if VFC = 10
- 6-15 min. from fire department = 10; if VFC = 15
- 16-30 min. from fire department = 15; if VFC = 20
- No RFD, FSA, municipal fire district or VFC? = 20

HOMEOWNER CONTACT - Items 26 and 27

- Central contact - formal/well organized group (e.g., a homeowners assoc.) = 5
- Less central contact - an informal/loosely organized group (e.g., a civic club or development office) = 10
- Multiple groups - different contacts representing different parts of the community = 15
- No organized contacts = 20

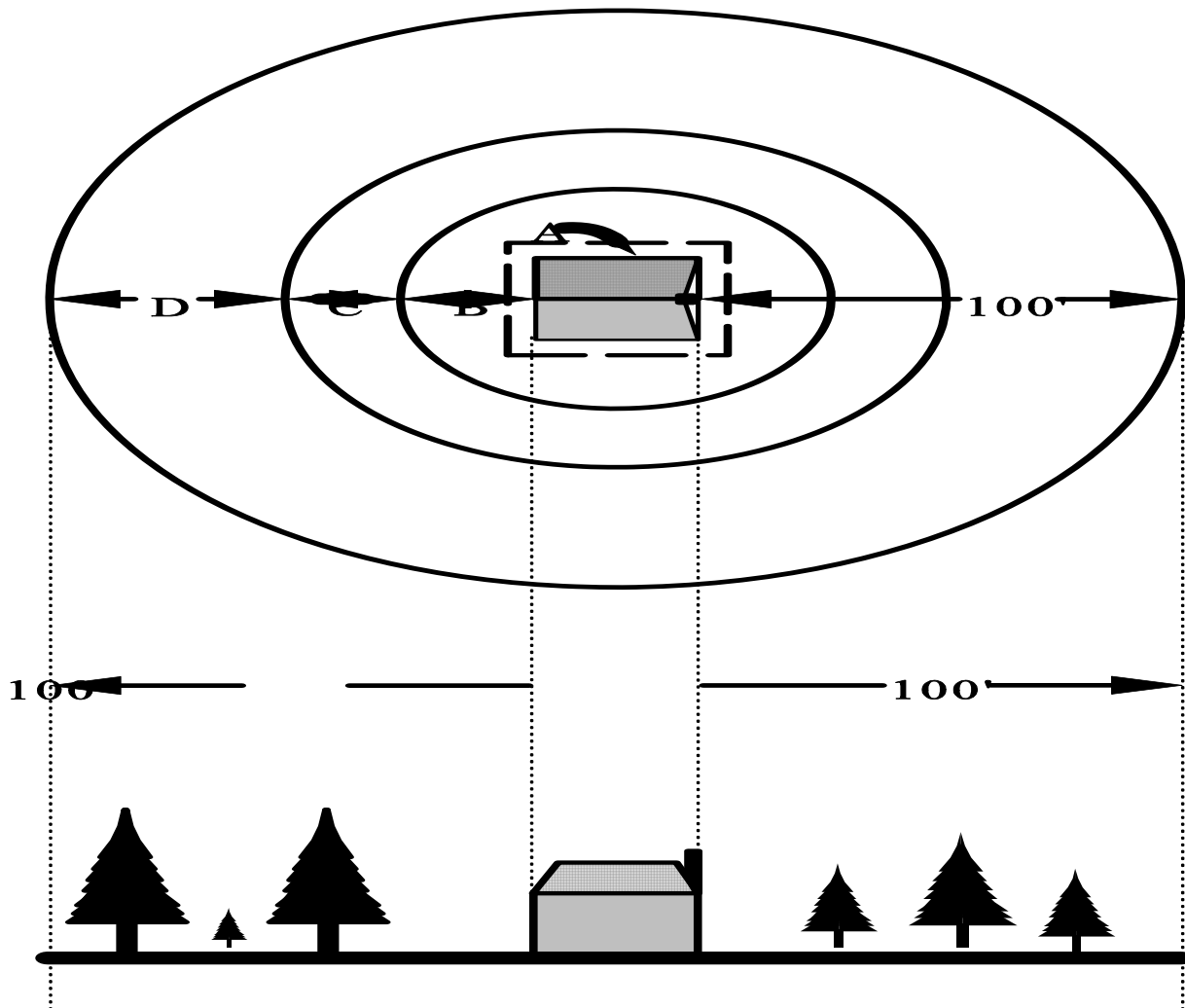
FIRE OCCURRENCE - Item 28

- .00-.10 Fires/1000 ac./10 yr. = 5
- .11-.20 Fires/1000 ac./10 yr. = 10
- .21-.40 Fires/1000 ac./10 yr. = 15
- .40+ Fires/1000 ac./10 yr. = 20

TOTAL SCORE

- <= 110 low risk - low priority
- 111-135 moderate risk - moderate priority
- 136-150 high risk - high priority
- 151-170 very high risk - very high priority
- >= 171 extreme risk - extreme priority

VEGETATION REDUCTION STANDARDS



0% TO 10% SLOPE

A = THE FIRST 3 FEET OF B

! Maintain an area of non-combustible material - flowers, plants, concrete, gravel, mineral soil etc..

B = 10 FEET

! Remove all trees and downed woody fuels.

C = 20 FEET

! Thin trees out to 10 feet between their crowns.

! Prune the limbs of all remaining trees to 15 feet or one third the total height whichever is less.

! Maintain surface vegetation at 3 inches or less.

! Remove all downed wood fuels.

D = 70 FEET

! Thin trees out to 10 feet between their crowns

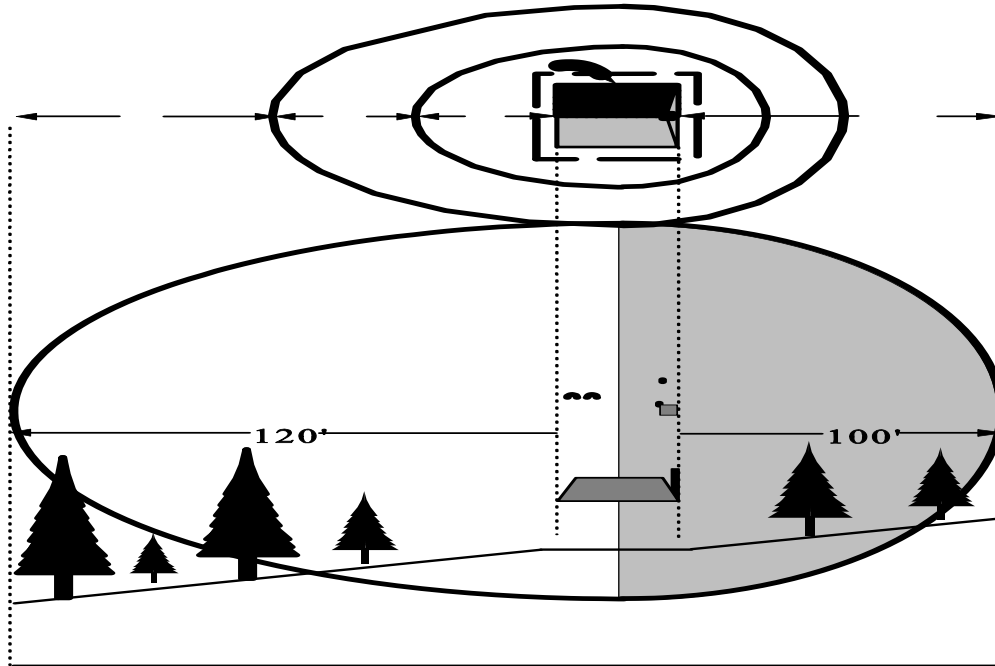
! Prune the limbs of all remaining trees to 15 feet or one third the total height whichever is less.

! Maintain surface vegetation at 12 inches or less.

! Remove all downed woody fuels more than 3 inches in diameter.

VEGETATION REDUCTION STANDARDS 10% TO 20% SLOPE

The shaded areas (up-slope) of B, C, D remain a constant distant of 10' 20' and 70' respectively. The shaded area begins from the mid-section of a structure. The unshaded areas (down-slope) of B, C, and D increase



with slope as detailed below:

A = THE FIRST 3 FEET OF B

! Maintain an area of non-combustible material - flowers, plants, concrete, gravel, mineral soil etc..

B = 15 FEET

! Remove all trees and downed woody fuels.

C = 25 FEET

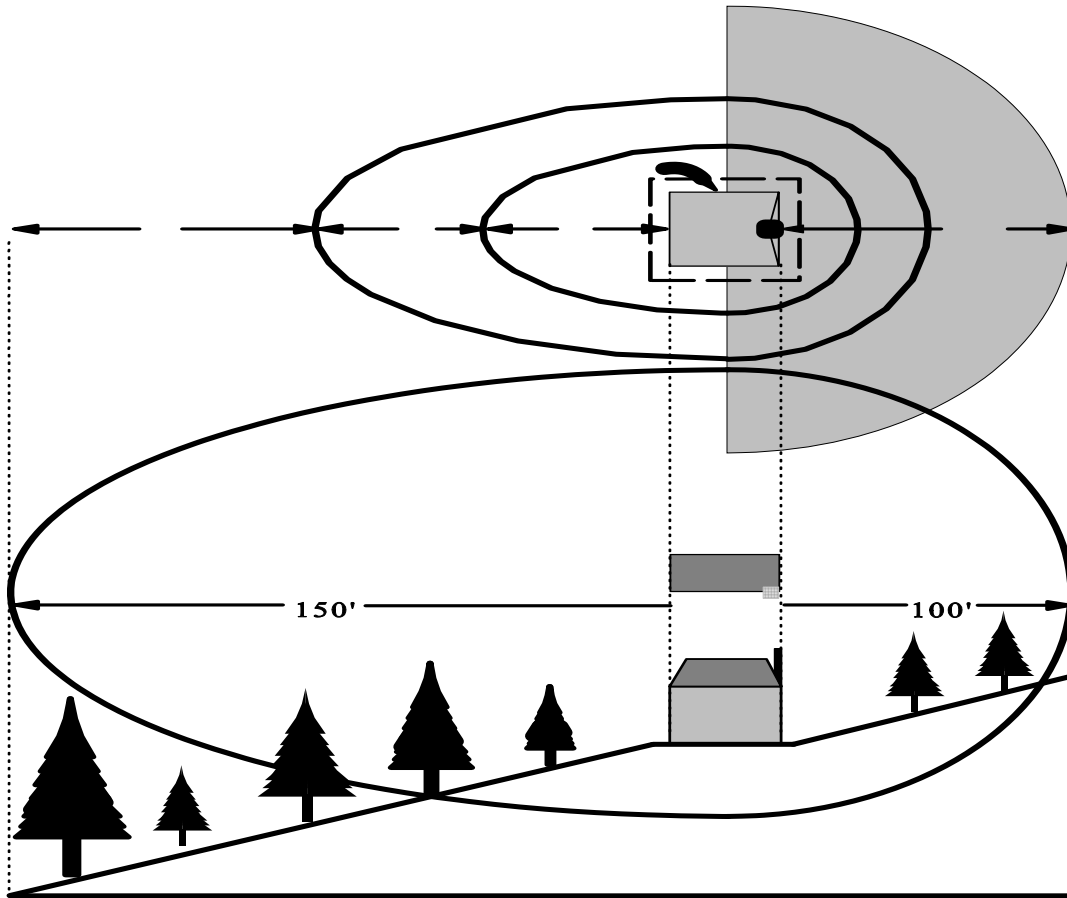
- ! Thin trees out to 10 feet between their crowns.
- ! Prune the limbs of all remaining trees to 15 feet or one third total height whichever is less.
- ! Maintain surface vegetation at 3 inches or less.
- ! Remove all downed wood fuels.

D = 80 FEET

- ! Thin trees out to 10 feet between their crowns
- ! Prune the limbs of all remaining trees to 15 feet or one third total height whichever is less.
- ! Maintain surface vegetation at 12 inches or less.
- ! Remove all downed woody fuels more than 3 inches in diameter.

VEGETATION REDUCTION STANDARDS 20% TO 30% SLOPE

The shaded areas (up-slope) of B, C, D remain a constant distant of 10' 20' and 70' respectively. The shaded



area begins from the mid-section of a structure. The unshaded areas (down-slope) of B, C, and D increase with slope as detailed below:

A = THE FIRST 3 FEET OF B

! Maintain an area of non-combustible material - flowers, plants, concrete, gravel, mineral soil etc..

B = 20 FEET

! Remove all trees and downed woody fuels.

C = 30 FEET

- ! Thin trees out to 10 feet between their crowns.
- ! Prune the limbs of all remaining trees to 15 feet or one third total height whatever is less.
- ! Maintain surface vegetation at 3 inches or less.
- ! Remove all downed wood fuels.

D = 100 FEET

- ! Thin trees out to 10 feet between their crowns
- ! Maintain surface vegetation at 12 inches or less.
- ! Remove all downed woody fuels more than 3 inches in diameter.

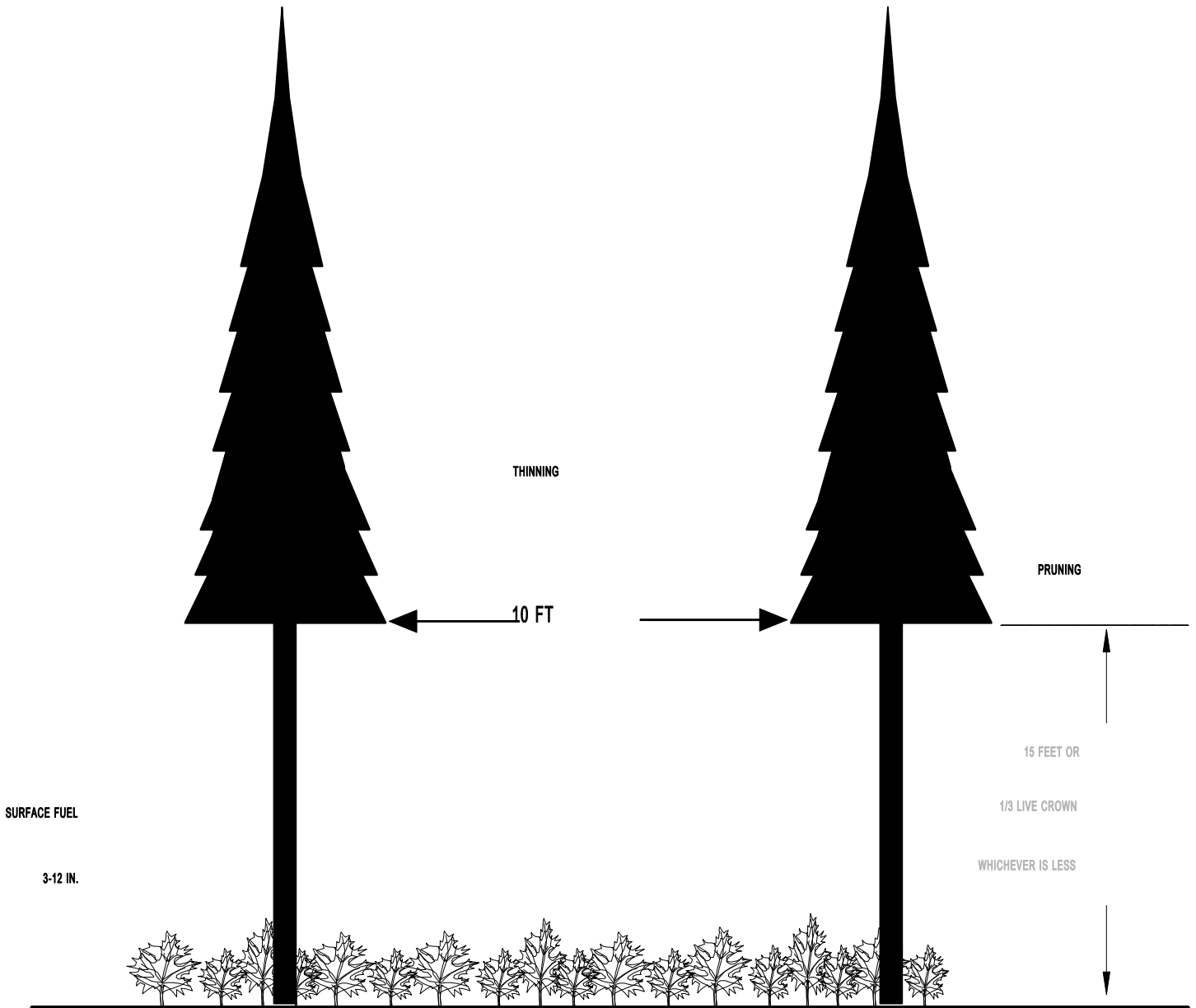
VEGETATION REDUCTION STANDARDS

THINNING AND PRUNING GUIDE

In areas where vegetation modification is prescribed use the following guidelines:

A. THINNING

! Thin trees out to 10 feet between their crowns.



B. PRUNING

! Prune the limbs of all remaining trees to 15 feet or one third total height whichever is less.

C. SURFACE VEGETATION

! Maintain surface vegetation at 3" to 12" as detailed

APPENDIX G

FOREST FIRE RULES & REGULATIONS

These rules apply to all activities on all classified forest lands within Montana during the legal Forest Fire Season, including any extension thereof (see 77-5-103(3), 76-11-101, 76-13-102(7), and 76-13-109 MCA). Reference also ARM 36.10.119 through 132.

Related State statute numbers are provided as a reference.

RULE I - DEBRIS BURNING

1. The person conducting the burn shall obtain written authorization from the recognized fire protection agency before igniting any open fire during the legal forest fire season (required by 76-13-121 MCA). The recognized fire protection agency may deny, restrict, or rescind any authorization by notifying the person conducting the burn.
 - b. baffle-type muffler, and tailpipe. Vehicles with glass-pack mufflers do not qualify for the exemption.
 - b. heavy-duty trucks of 23,000 GVW or greater, with a muffler and vertical stack exhaust system extending above the cab.
 - c. vehicles with other spark-arresting systems providing equal or increased effectiveness. Such vehicles must be inspected and have written authorization from the recognized fire protection agency.
2. All burning must comply with the Department of Environmental Quality or State/county/local open burning regulations.
3. Written authorization is not required for campfires.

RULE II - CAMPFIRES

1. Campfires cannot be left unattended and must be completely extinguished (see 76-13-123 MCA).
2. All campfires must be constructed in cleared or bare areas, and not allowed to spread beyond the established ring, pit, grate, or container.
3. Anyone igniting a campfire is required to have fire tools listed in Rule VIII (4).

RULE III - RAILROADS AND POWERLINES

Railroad and powerline companies are required to prepare and annually update working agreements with recognized fire protection agencies. These agreements must stress safety and fire response procedures; and identify, remove, prevent, modify, abate, or correct forest fire hazards and risks associated with railroad and powerline company operations (see 69-14-721 MCA).

RULE IV - EQUIPMENT

1. All internal combustion engines must be equipped with an approved and effective spark-arresting system, as established in the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's Spark Arrester Guides. Spark-arresting devices must be marked, properly installed, and maintained in accordance with the Guides. The following vehicles are exempt:
 - a. automobiles and light trucks of less than 23,000 GVW when all exhaust gases pass through a properly installed and maintained exhaust system,

2. Equipment used for commercial, ranching, or industrial activities must meet the fire extinguisher and tool requirements listed in Rule VIII (5).

RULE V - FLAMING AND GLOWING SUBSTANCES

1. All flaming and glowing substances, including but not limited to, lighted cigarettes, cigars, ashes, and matches, must be extinguished before being discarded (see 76-13-124 MCA).
2. Smoking is allowed only at areas free of flammable or combustible material. Examples of these areas include a graveled road or an enclosed vehicle.

RULE VI - FIREWORKS

Use of fireworks is prohibited on all classified forest lands unless written authorization is obtained from the recognized fire protection agency. Authorization will only be considered between June 24 and July 5, inclusive, to coincide with the legal dates for the sale of fireworks in Montana (see 50-37-106 MCA).

RULE VII - WILDLAND/URBAN INTERFACE

1. County governments without subdivision wild-fire protection standards are encouraged to establish standards for all new subdivisions by January 1, 2000.
2. The Fire Protection Guidelines for Wildland/Residential Interface Development (DSL/DOJ, 1993) is available for use to assist counties in the development of standards.

RULE VIII - FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AND FIREFIGHTING TOOLS

1. Chainsaw operators shall carry a fully charged and operable fire extinguisher, minimum-capacity 8-ounce liquid or 1-pound dry chemical, with a 4BC or higher rating.
2. Vehicles and equipment, mobile or stationary, with a combustion engine/motor used for commercial, ranching, or industrial activities must have one operable, dry-chemical fire extinguisher with a minimum 2-1/2 -pound capacity and 4BC or higher rating.
3. Chainsaw operators shall maintain one usable shovel at chainsaw-fueling sites.
4. All persons or parties igniting a campfire shall have one usable shovel and bucket. Persons igniting a barbecue need not have a shovel or bucket if the ashes are not removed from the container and the ashes or container are not placed on or near combustible material.
5. All commercial, ranching, or industrial activities must have:
 - a. one usable shovel or pulaski with each vehicle and equipment with an internal combustion engine/motor, mobile or stationary.
 - b. one backpack pump with each vehicle and with any equipment, used off road, mobile or stationary, with an internal combustion engine/motor, that cannot be used to build fireline and is being operated on combustible material.
6. Other types of firefighting tools that provide increased efficiency or effectiveness may be substituted by written authorization from the recognized fire-protection agency. For example, a Acombi≡ firefighting tool may be substituted for a shovel or pulaski.

RULE IX - FOREST ACTIVITY RESTRICTIONS

In areas designated by public proclamation by the administrator, division of forestry, as areas of high fire hazard, the administrator may request all persons, firms, or corporations present or engaged in any activity in the areas to voluntarily cease operations or to adjust working hours to less critical periods of the day. In the event such a request is refused, the administrator may issue a written order directing compliance.

RULE X - FOREST CLOSURE

1. During periods of dangerous fire conditions, no person may enter or be upon those forest lands designated by public proclamation by the governor of the state of Montana as areas of dangerous fire hazard except under written permit issued by a recognized agency.
2. Permits to enter upon such areas during the closure may be issued by the recognized agency upon a showing of real need by the applicant. Permits may be issued to those persons having actual residence as a permanent or principal place of abode in the forest lands designated or to persons engaged in non-fire hazardous employment.
3. However, no permit may be required of persons engaged in either firefighting, fire prevention, or law enforcement who are engaged in official business.

RULE XI - CORRECTION OF HAZARD AND UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES OR EVENTS

The recognized fire-protection agency may require identified wildland-fire hazards and/or risks be halted, prevented, abated, removed, disposed of, mitigated, or patrolled. This applies to public, private, nonprofit, commercial, and/or residential circumstances or events.

RULE XII - REQUEST FOR REVIEW

If any operator believes that in his case any requirement of a recognized agency is excessive, the operator may request the administrator, division of forestry, to review the requirements. If in the opinion of the administrator any or all are not necessary in the interest of public safety, he may make such changes as he considers advisable.

RULE XIII - DEFINITIONS

Backpack Pump: 5-gallon minimum; standard galvanized metal, fiberglass, or rubberized backpack water container with attached handpump; full of water at all times.

Bucket: Metal, plastic, canvas, or fiberglass container capable of holding at least one gallon of water. Motorcycle helmets qualify.

ACampfire means a fire set for cooking, warming, or ceremonial purposes; not more than 3 feet in diameter or height; void of overhanging branches; with all combustible material cleared at least 1-1/2 times the diameter of the fire; or a barbecue in a noncombustible container.

Combi Tool: A tool combining a shovel and pick.

Fireworks: As defined in 50-37-101 MCA.

Forested Land: As defined in 76-13-102 MCA and 36.10.101 ARM.

Hazard: Condition that promotes the ignition and/or spread of a wildland fire.

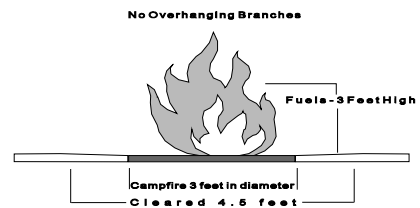
Open Fire: The burning of a bonfire, rubbish fire, or other fire in an outdoor location where fuel being burned is not contained in a closed incinerator, or outdoor fireplace. Barbecue pits and burn barrels are considered open fires and therefore require a burning permit (Rule I).

Pulaski: An ax with a medium size sharp grub hoe opposite the ax blade.

Recognized Fire-Protection Authority: An agency organized for the purpose of providing fire protection and recognized by the board as giving adequate fire protection to forest lands in accordance with rules adopted by the board.

Risk: Action or device that could cause a wildland fire to ignite.

Shovel: Vehicle, equipment, and chainsaw operator shovels will have a minimum overall length of 36 inches with a round pointed shovel head with a minimum width of 6 inches. Shovels required for campfires must be at least 24-inches in length with a pointed shovel head. Folding handles qualify.



RULE XIV - APPLICABILITY

The forest fire rules, Rule I through Rule XIII, (ARM 36.10.119 through 30.10.132) are in effect each year on classified forest land during the forest fire season May 1st to September 30th inclusive, or any legal extension thereof.

Requirements pertaining to motor vehicles do not apply to those being operated solely on roads that are a part of federal or State maintained highway systems or on any paved public road.

SAMPLE #2

Butte/Silver Bow 1997-98 Multi-Agency Annual Operating Plan for Cooperative Wildland Fire Protection

INTRODUCTION:

This Operating Plan is entered into by and between the Butte/Silver Bow Government, Butte Fire Department, Walkerville Volunteer Fire Department, Melrose Rural Fire District, Little Basin Creek Volunteer Fire Company, Butte/Silver Bow Law Enforcement Agency/911 Center, and Butte/Silver Bow Disaster and Emergency Services Division, hereinafter called Cooperators; the Silver Bow Fire Training Center Inc.; the Butte Ranger District, Beaverhead/Deerlodge National Forest, hereinafter called USFS; and the Anaconda Unit, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, hereinafter called DNRC. This Operating Plan is in accordance with and not intended to supersede the provisions of the Cooperative Fire Control Agreement between the State of Montana and Silver Bow County dated July 22, 1970 and the Cooperative Fire Management Agreement between the State of Montana and the United States Forest Service, Agreement No. FS-01-91-35, dated September 30, 1991. The parties hereto agree as follows:

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Plan is to provide for coordination and cooperation between the Cooperators, USFS and DNRC in matters of wildland fire protection within the boundaries of Butte/Silver Bow. This Operating Plan will define operating procedures and responsibilities of the parties involved.

I. FIRE PREVENTION:

A. Burning Permits

By local ordinance, burning permits are required for open burning on all lands within Butte/Silver Bow throughout the year. No permits may be issued from December 1st to the end of February without the burner first obtaining authorization from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. Generally each agency will issue burning permits on lands that they protect but agencies may issue permits on another=s protection if first given authorization to do so. Any agency issuing a burning permit will notify the Butte Fire Department and any other agency that it might be near.

B. Restrictions and Closures

All parties to this agreement shall notify the others of their interest to institute, modify or remove restrictions and closures. All conditions of such restrictions or closures will be mutually agreed upon prior to initiating and done in coordination with the Northern Rockies Coordination Group Closures and Restrictions plan.

C. Prevention Programs

In an effort to improve local awareness of fire safety, especially in the wildland/urban interface, programs will be developed to address specific issues identified by the agencies signatory hereto. Agencies and departments may assist one another and bill the receiving party for services or materials provided as mutually agreed upon by both parties.

D. Fire Cause Investigation

It will be the primary responsibility of the party on whose protection area the fire originates to undertake a Fire Cause Investigation. This does not preclude joint action and in those instances when initial action or suppression is made on protection areas of the other, the initial attack force will immediately attempt to gather and preserve evidence pertaining to the cause of the fire.

II. TRAINING:

All parties to this operating plan agree to share training opportunities, including trainers, trainees, materials and support. All local training that is multi-agency in nature and sponsored by one of the parties to this agreement will be coordinated with and made available to all other agencies. The Silver Bow Fire Training Center will serve as the Interagency Training Coordination Group. Agencies may utilize the expertise of individuals for certain training opportunities or sessions, if this occurs, the receiving agency may reimburse the other for travel and associated costs, if such costs are deemed necessary by both parties. Agencies may mutually agree to utilize specialized specific training equipment or technology at a rate mutually agreed to by all parties.

Through the State/County Cooperative Fire Control Agreement, DNRC agrees to provide a minimum of one wildland fire training session to the Cooperators each year. Requests for training should be coordinated by the Silver Bow Training Center and relayed to the Anaconda Unit, DNRC.

III. PRESUPPRESSION:

A. Equipment

Attachment D is an equipment listing for the parties to this agreement. Each agency agrees to provide updates to **Attachment D** in a timely manner.

DNRC will continue to loan minor fire equipment and supplies (such as personal protective equipment, hose, handtools, etc.) to the Cooperators as it becomes available. Most items loaned to the Cooperators are procured by the Anaconda Unit, DNRC, through the Federal Excess Property Program.

DNRC presently has six pieces of major equipment on loan to the Cooperators. This equipment is loaned for the purpose of wildland fire suppression but may be used on any fire incident. DNRC will not loan any additional major equipment but will work with the Cooperators to replace the present equipment as it becomes older and more difficult to maintain. All regular maintenance and repairs to the equipment is the responsibility of the Cooperators.

Cooperators equipment shall be inspected and have rental agreements signed prior to hire by either DNRC or USFS.

B. Facilities

Each agency shall make their facilities available upon reasonable request for use as a meeting site or training facility. Use of agencies facilities for storage of fire apparatus shall be negotiated between agencies and covered by the proper agreements.

IV. DETECTION AND REPORTING:

An agency that detects or receives a report of a fire that is determined to be on or near the lands protected by another will immediately notify the responsible agency of the fire. Notification shall be to the appropriate dispatch offices:

Cooperators: Butte/Silver Bow 911 Dispatch Center
USFS: Dillon Interagency Dispatch Center
DNRC: Anaconda Unit Office

Agencies may begin an appropriate response to an incident on or near another=s protection while the proper notification is being accomplished.

V. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. Radios

By the terms of this agreement, each party agrees to permit the others to utilize their radio frequencies in providing assistance for emergency purposes. **Attachment B** is a frequency list for each party to this agreement.

When an initial response involves only Cooperators resources, 154.430 (Fire 1) and 154.130 (Fire 2) will normally be used. When an initial response involves only DNRC, 151.190 will normally be used. When an initial response involves only USFS, 171.000 will normally be used.

When a fire response involves more than one agency, all responding resources shall utilize 154.070 (Red Channel) for initial contacts and further radio traffic on the scene.

An incident that expands into a more complex organizational structure will require a more involved communications plan. The State of Montana Mutual Aid and Common Frequencies 1994 manual should be used as a guide by the responsible agency/incident commander in developing such communications plans as needed.

B. Telephone/Pagers/Cellular Phones

By the terms of this agreement, each party agrees to keep their fire call list (**Attachment C**) updated as needed.

VI. **SUPPRESSION:**

A. Protection Areas

Attachment A outlines the wildland fire protection areas of the parties to this agreement. Specifically, through the State/County Cooperative Fire Control Agreement, the Cooperators provide protection to all State and private lands in Butte/Silver Bow that are not protected by the USFS or DNRC.

B. Requests for Assistance

There are different procedures that must be followed depending on what agency is requesting what other agency for assistance.

1. Cooperator Requesting Assistance from DNRC

The Incident Commander should notify 911 Dispatch of the specific need. 911 Dispatch shall relay that request to the Director of Fire Services. If the Director of Fire Services determines that the request is beyond the capabilities of the County to provide, the request should be relayed to the Anaconda Unit, DNRC. Through the State/County Cooperative Fire Control Agreement, DNRC will provide assistance to the County at no cost to the County provided that the assistance is beyond the capabilities of the County to provide and that the County remains fully committed to the suppression effort. DNRC's assistance may come in the form of a County Fire Advisor or may include any number and type of resource that is needed. The assistance that DNRC sends and pays the costs for may be either DNRC or USFS resources. Costs of USFS resources ordered directly by the Cooperators, not through DNRC, may be billed to the Cooperators.

2. DNRC Requests for Assistance

DNRC will submit requests for assistance from the USFS to the Dillon Interagency Dispatch Office.

DNRC will submit requests for assistance from the Cooperators to the 911 Dispatch Center. 911 Dispatch will contract the Director of Fire Services for direction on what specifically can and will be provided.

3. USFS Request for Assistance

USFS will submit requests for assistance from DNRC to the Anaconda Unit Office.

USFS will submit requests for assistance from the Cooperators through the Anaconda Unit Office. This will assure that equipment and personnel payment is carried out by DNRC.

When one agency requests assistance from another, the sending agency shall dispatch only those personnel who meet or exceed the minimum requirements for qualification and certification, including the required personal protective equipment, of the receiving agency. Cooperators' resources hired by DNRC for DNRC or USFS fires shall meet the fitness, training and equipment standards outlined in the Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook, NWCG Handbook 2. DNRC and USFS recognize Incident Qualification Cards (Red Cards) issued by the Cooperators for ICS positions up to the Single Resource Boss level (Engine Boss). Red Cards for higher level positions will be issued for Cooperators by DNRC. Red Cards are not required for personnel not directly involved in the suppression effort such as local law enforcement and emergency medical responders.

At the time of a request for assistance, the assisting agency shall dispatch the nearest available resources to the requesting agency=s incident.

At the time of a request, each party may assign an officer that supervises the activities of his/her agencies= resources.

It shall be policy for the party requesting assistance to release the assisting agency from emergency duties as soon as practical and mutually desired.

All agencies will operate using the Incident Command System.

The first arriving officer from any agency shall assume the role of Incident Commander and may transition to the Command personnel from the responsible agency upon their arrival and briefing.

In the event that an Incident Commander determines that a wildland fire is on or threatening the protection of another agency, the Incident Commander may order resources to handle the incident through the responsible agency=s dispatch center.

Annually, the 911 Center=s Wildland Dispatch Standard Operating Procedure will be reviewed by the Cooperating agencies and updated as needed.

In the event any agency suppresses a fire on land administered by another agency, it will furnish the benefiting agency a copy of the preliminary incident report within 10 days after the fire is declared out.

VII. REIMBURSEMENTS:

Reimbursements made under the provisions of this operating plan shall be in accordance with the terms of the following:

- A. Non-fire reimbursement will be billed direct to the parties involved.
- B. Fire reimbursement will be billed in accordance with the Cooperative Fire Management Agreement between the State of Montana and the United States Forest Service, Agreement No. FS-01-91-35, dated September 30, 1991 and by the rates and terms established in the Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook. Fire reimbursement will begin at the time of dispatch.

Reciprocal Fire Protection Services (Reciprocal Fire Protection Act of May 27, 1955; 42 U.S.C. 1856a):

The parties signatory hereto agree, in areas not identified in this plan, that if personnel, overhead and equipment are used on other agencies= incidents, that agency will bill for all direct costs incurred.

Reimbursable Fire Management Assistance (Granger-Thye Act of April 24, 1950, Section 5; 16 U.S.C. 572 and Act of December 12, 1975; P.L. 94-148; 16 U.S.C. 565a-1-3):

The agencies agree that they shall furnish personnel and equipment to the other agencies upon request. Requests will be honored as current conditions permit. All such efforts shall be reimbursed by the requesting agency.

Other Costs, Training and Fire Prevention Materials, Supplies, Etc. (Granger-Thye Act of April 24, 1950, Section 5; 16 U.S.C. 572 AND Act of December 12, 1975; P.L. 94-148; 16 U.S.C. 565a-1-3)

VIII. PLAN REVIEW:

This operating plan will be reviewed annually for accuracy and will remain in effect until it is canceled by the mutual consent of all parties involved, or superseded by a new plan. Modifications to this plan will be mutually agreed upon by all parties and will be completed annually by April 30.

OPERATING PLAN APPROVAL:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Anaconda Unit

By: _____ Date: _____
Title: Unit Fire Supervisor

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

By: _____ Date: _____
Title: Forest Supervisor

Butte/Silver Bow Government

By: _____ Date: _____
Title: Chief Executive

Butte/Silver Bow Government

By: _____ Date: _____
Title: Chairman, Council of Commissioners

Butte Fire Department

By: _____ Date: _____
Title: Director of Fire Services

Little Basin Creek Volunteer Fire Company

By: _____ Date: _____
Title: Fire Chief

Melrose Rural Fire District

By: _____ Date: _____
Title: Fire Chief

Walkerville Volunteer Fire Department

By: _____ Date:
Title: Fire Chief

Butte/Silver Bow Law Enforcement Agency/911 Center

By: _____ Date:
Title: Sheriff

Butte/Silver Bow Disaster and Emergency Services Division

By: _____ Date:
Title: Coordinator

Silver Bow Fire Training Center Inc.

By: _____ Date:

ATTACHMENT B

Frequency Listing

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Use</u>
Cooperators	154.430 T/R	Fire 1
	154.130 T/R	Fire 2
DNRC	151.190 T/R	Anaconda Unit Direct
	151.460 T, 151.190 R, Tone 141.3	C-Hill Repeater
	151.220 T/R	DNRC Common (Yellow)
	151.400 T/R	DNRC Tactical (Orange)
	151.175 T/R	SWLO Administrative
USFS	171.000 T/R	Deerlodge Direct
	170.350 T, 171.000 R, Tone 103.5	Deerlodge Red Mtn Repeater
	171.425 T/R	Beaverhead Direct
	172.325 T, 171.425 R, Tone 103.5	Beaverhead Bean Ridge Repeater
	172.325 T, 171.425 R, Tone 167.9	Beaverhead Deadhorse Repeater
	172.325 T, 171.425 R, Tone 123.0	Beaverhead Lazyman Repeater
Mutual Aid	170.500 T/R	Project/Survey
	154.070	State Fire Mutual Aid (Red)
	153.905	State Mutual Aid (Gold)

ATTACHMENT C

Fire Call List

Cooperators

911 Dispatch Center (Shift Commander)		782-4224 ext. 600
Butte Fire Department		
Director of Fire Services	Bob Armstrong	782-4224 ext. 651 490-1134 cell phone
Fire Marshall	John Lasky	782-4224 ext. 652
Big Butte VFD	Ed O'Neill	723-3817 home
Boulevard VFD	Bill Fisher	723-3121 home 491-3121 cell phone
Centerville VFD	Mike Doto	782-9308 home
Floral Park VFD	Jack Cullen	494-3788 home
Home Atherton VFD	Clem Duaine	494-4514 home
Little Basin Creek VFC	Dave Kneebone	494-4365 home
Melrose VFD	Bob Goody	835-2941 home
Race Track VFD	Rob Datres	782-6972 home
Rocker VFD	Frank Weitzel	723-6806 home
Terra Verde VFD	Dan Calnan	494-2466 home
Walkerville VFD	Tom Bolton	723-9394 home
Fire Training Center	Mike Doto	782-6090 office
Fire Council, President	Henry Hislop	494-5472 home
Chief Executive	Jack Lynch	723-8262 office
Sheriff	John McPherson	782-4224 office
DES Coordinator	Wilma Puich	782-1515 office

DNRC

Anaconda Unit Office	fire calls	563-7944
	other calls	563-6078
After hours - Fire Duty Officer		563-5241 (ask to page DNRC, pager #26)
	Terry Vaughn	563-6894 (home)
	Todd Klemann	563-6727 (home)
	Patti Sundberg	563-2792 (home)
Southwest Montana Interagency Coordination Center		542-4280

USFS

Dillon Interagency Dispatch Center - 683-3975

Beaverhead/Deerlodge Duty Officer List	<u>Office</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Cell</u>
Frank Russell	683-3990	683-6552	
Darrell Schulte	683-3915	835-3400	
Dick Owneby	683-3978	683-4832	
Whitehall Ranger District	<u>Office</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Cell</u>
John Billeter	287-3223	287-5356	491-1086
Dan Segovia	287-3223	287-5361	591-0560
Grant Godbolt	287-3223		
Philipsburg Ranger Districts	<u>Office</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Cell</u>
Mark Giacoletto	859-3211	859-3349	691-0369
Joe Brabender	859-3211	859-3096	691-0479
Madison/Ennis Ranger Districts	<u>Office</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Cell</u>
Talga Rohrer	682-4253	682-4909	
Chris Ourada	842-5432	842-5818	581-3668
Al Kyles	842-5432	682-7132	581-3667
Glen Strauser	842-5432	842-5528	
Wise River/Wisdom Ranger Districts	<u>Office</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Cell</u>
Diane Hutton	689-3243	689-3267	
Jim Frestone	832-3178	832-3244	

ATTACHMENT D

Equipment Listing (ID#)

Cooperators:

Big Butte V.F.D.

500 gal. engine w/1000 gpm pump, 1969 Am. LaFrance (F-31)
250 gpm portable pump

Boulevard V.F.D.

250 gal. engine w/250 gpm pump, 1977 Dodge 4x4 (F-15)
500 gal. engine w/1000 gpm pump, 1959 International (F-17)
1,000 gal. tender w/200 gpm pump, 1967 Ford (F-16)
1,200 gal. porta-tank

Butte F.D.

300 gal. engine w/1000 gpm pump, 1966 Mack (F-1)
300 gal. engine w/1000 gpm pump, 1966 Mack (F-2)
500 gal. engine w/1250 gpm pump, 1975 Mack (F-3)
750 gal. engine w/1500 gpm pump, 1988 Mack (F-4)
750 gal. engine w/1500 gpm pump, 1996 Central States (F-5)
Ladder Truck, 1967 Mack (F-7)

Centerville V.F.D.

500 gal. engine w/750 gpm pump, 1975 International (F-36)

Floral Park V.F.D.

200 gal. engine w/250 gpm pump, 1977 Dodge 4x4 (F-47)
200 gal. engine w/750 gpm pump, 1960 Mack (F-46)

Home Atherton V.F.D.

300 gal. engine w/500 gpm pump, 1956 Mack (F-41)
500 gal. engine w/1,000 gpm pump, 1975 Ford (F-42)
1,200 gal. porta-tank

Little Basin Creek V.F.C.

200 gal. engine w/350 gpm pump, 1980 Chevrolet 4x4 (None)
250 gpm portable pump

Melrose V.F.D.

400 gal. engine w/500 gpm pump, 1954 Am. LaFrance (F-62)
2,500 gal. tender w/250 gpm pump, 1953 GMC (F-60)
200 gal. engine w/100 gpm pump, 1982 GMC 4x4 (925) *
1,100 gal. engine w/750 gpm pump, 1967 International (275) *

Racetrack V.F.D.

500 gal. engine w/1250 gpm pump, 1967 Am. LaFrance (F-27)
500 gal. Engine w/1250 gpm pump, 1971 Am. LaFrance (F-26)

Rocker V.F.D.

750 gal. engine w/500 gpm pump, 1962 Ford (F-52)
1,500 gal tender w/300 gpm pump, 1966 International (317) *
2,500 gal. porta-tank

Terra Verde V.F.D.

250 gal. engine w/500 gpm pump, 1947 Maxim (F-21)
5,000 gal. tender w/500 gpm pump, 1968 Mack (F-22)
200 gal. engine w/100 gpm pump, 1974 Jeep 4x4 (342) *
100 gpm portable pump *
1,200 gal. porta-tank
5,000 gal. porta-tank

Walkerville V.F.D.

500 gal. engine w/750 gpm pump, 1975 Chevrolet (None)
200 gal. engine w/100 gpm pump, 1983 GMC 4x4 (959) *

Butte/Silver Bow Shop

1 ea D7 Dozer
5 ea Graders
3 ea 3,000 gallon water trucks
2 ea 1,200 gallon water trucks

* State owned equipment loaned to Butte/Silver Bow

DNRC:

Anaconda Unit Office

200 gal. engine w/100 gpm pump, 1986 GMC 4x4 (106)
200 gal. engine w/100 gpm pump, 1988 GMC 4x4 (237)
200 gal. engine w/100 gpm pump, 1992 Ford 4x4 (604)
200 gal. engine w/100 gpm pump, 1983 GMC 4x4 (963)
750 gal. engine w/100 gpm pump, 1975 Dodge 4x4 (610)
Pump trailer with/2 ea portable pressure pumps and 1,600' hose
Portable volume pump
20 passenger bus with internal gear storage
Cargo truck, 1 ton
9 passenger suburban
Honda trail bikes, 3 each

Garrison Initial Attack Station

- 200 gal. engine w/100 gpm pump, 1986 GMC 4x4 (103)
- 200 gal. engine w/100 gpm pump, 1989 GMC 4x4 (310)
- 200 gal. engine w/100 gpm pump, 1994 GMC 4x4 (324)
- 500 gal. engine w/100 gpm pump, 1962 International 4x4 (174)
- Pump trailer, w/1 each portable and floating pressure pumps and 1,600' hose

USFS:

Boulder

- 200 gal. engine w/100 gpm pump, 4x4 (271)

Butte

- 200 gal. engine w/100 gpm pump, 4x2 (241)

Ennis

- 200 gal. engine (262)

Dillon

- 200 gal. engine (211)

Philipsburg

- 200 gal. engine (291)
- 200 gal. engine (292)
- 1000 gal. engine (293)

Sheridan

- 200 gal. engine (261)

Whitehall

- 200 gal. engine w/100 gpm pump, 4x4 (272)
- 700 gal. engine w/100 gpm pump, 4x2 (273)
- 10 person suppression crew

Wise River

- 200 gal. engine (221)

Wisdom

- 200 gal. engine (231)