DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

AND CONSERVATION



###### STEVE BULLOCK, GOVERNOR SOUTHERN LAND OFFICE

 STATE OF MONTANA

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 **BILLINGS, MT 59105-1978**

 **Delegation of Authority**

*Mountain View Wildland Fire Incident*

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Southern Land Office (SLO), Yellowstone County (LG03)

Effective at 1800 hours on August 29th, 2019 the Montana DNRC and the Yellowstone County Fire Chief hereby delegate authority for the management of the Mountain View Wildland Fire Incident to David Hamilton, Incident Commander for the Montana DNRC’s County Assistance Team (CAT). Your response to this incident is by request of Yellowstone County, through their Cooperative Fire Control Agreement, administered by the Montana DNRC.

The DNRC-Southern Land Office, together with Yellowstone County, is the lead agency for this incident. Fire spread upon other ownerships may alter this delegation and the DNRC Line Officer will be the coordinator of these efforts should they become necessary. Such circumstances are unlikely to occur on this incident given present ownerships in proximity.

You have full authority and responsibility for managing the necessary fire suppression and management activities within the framework of law, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation policy, and direction provided in the attached briefing and guidelines.

This incident is a wildland fire burning nearly entirely upon privately owned under the protection of Yellowstone County and reside entirely within Yellowstone County, approximately 10 miles North of Laurel, Montana, or about 5 miles west of Billings, Montana. It is our expectation that this fire receives from you, a “full perimeter control” management strategy.

We expect you to communicate regularly and as needed with the DNRC Line Officer, their representatives a s applicable, and especially the Yellowstone County Fire Chief (Dennis Pitman @ 406-670-7430), DES Coordinator/Fire Warden (KC Williams @ 406-208-0506), and the Sheriff’s Lieutenant (Kent O’Donnell @ 406-208-0559). It is both relevant to this situation, and important to the land office, that our working relationships with these public officers are maintained and improved by your management of this incident in coordination with and on-behalf of their capacities.

We expect suppression efforts to be executed in accordance with the selected Alternative “A” in the Incident Fire Situation Analysis (IFSA) that has been prepared for this incident. You may be involved in updating the IFSA if necessary; I will also expect a daily review of the IFSA during this incident. The suppression cost is estimated to be $1,750,000. If the fire remains within the selected alternative boundary you are authorized to spend up to fifteen (15) percent more than this amount without prior DNRC Line Officer approval.

**Specific Objectives For This Incident Are As Follows:**

* Firefighter and Public safety should be given the highest priority in your management of this incident. This should be analyzed through each of your planning processes and whenever tactics may change during the operational period. The safety analysis should be documented for each operational planning period. Use of ICS-215A or something similar is acceptable, and such documentation should be included in the final fire package at the conclusion of your authority for this incident.
* Protect all threatened structures and personal, privately owned property if it can be done without excessive or unreasonable risk. Minimize the fires impact to these ownerships by implementing an aggressive suppression strategy utilizing direct attack where and whenever safe to do so. Take advantage of natural features such as breaks in fuels, topographic features, or changes in weather. Decisions that utilize strategies or tactics that deviate from direct attack must be made with firefighter safety as the foremost consideration. Privately owned grass, pasture and crop land, and aesthetically pleasing views are of paramount importance to both the ownerships and the local economics within this area. It would be our intent to minimize the fires footprint upon the landscape with these considerations in mind.
* Smoke management, and particularly that which could impact the municipal areas west, south, and east of the fire, will be important. By utilizing direct attack options where and whenever possible, we would anticipate that smoke management would be routine. However, should your consideration include more in-direct tactics, please also consider the impacts of smoke to the down-wind areas versus the threat of fire spread and impingement into or upon these areas.
* **The IMT is responsible for all initial attack within the TFR and may be requested to support initial attack outside of the TFR by the Southern Area Fire Duty Officer. It is imperative that those efforts are coordinated with the Billings Interagency Fire Dispatch Center as/if they occur.**
* Maintain close coordination with the Yellowstone County officials, the land office, and maintain contact with appropriate agencies, elected officials, business leaders and members of the public. Your personnel must be sensitive to the impacts this incident may have upon private property, public roadways, and adjacent ownerships and jurisdictions. Utilize local businesses and individuals when feasible to achieve incident objectives including logistically supporting the incident.
* Property and equipment accountability standards must be followed per State policy. The loss tolerance ratio that you are directed to achieve for accountable property is no more than 6%. You are also expected to track miscellaneous fire equipment to ensure that items delivered to drop points or locations on the fire line are accounted for and not misplaced or lost. You are expected to track property loaned to cooperators and recover the property when the cooperator is demobilized from the incident. We encourage you to document cost efficiency measures you considered and implemented during the course of the incident.
* The criteria for turning the incident back to the Yellowstone County would include the following:

- Fire contained and controlled through no less than one operational, including a day time burn period.

- Mopped up 3 chains in from control lines.

- Spot fires mopped up 100% and verified by cold trailing.

-It is our intent that upon turn-back, this fire would require very little effort from the landowners and Yellowstone County (Molt and Laurel) Fire Departments.

* Provide documented justification for keeping any “high dollar” resources assigned to the incident that have not been utilized over the course of one operational period.
* All equipment used on the incident is to have a current inspection and complete documentation of the inspection will be a part of the final fire package.
* Public information will be handled by the incident PIO and coordinated with **1**) the Yellowstone County Fire Chief, DES Coordinator, and Sheriff’s Lieutenant, and **2)** the Southern Land Office. Media relations and public information management may be provided on-scene, but coordination with the those aforementioned should occur through regular contact and interaction by your Team with them directly, and in coordination with the DNRC Line Officer or their representative.
* Rehabilitate fire suppression related damages in a timely manner, if possible and as resources are available. Resources should not be reserved from fire suppression duties in order to accomplish this project however in the event that excess, or otherwise unassigned resources are available, they should be used for this purpose. If your team in unable to complete this objective, you will notify the DNRC Line Officer and prepare a plan which outlines necessary fire suppression repairs, contact information, maps, and estimates of work and effort needed. In order to limit the spread and introduction of noxious weeds, all equipment coming from outside the geographic area must be washed and inspected prior to arriving on the incident.
* Manage the human resources assigned to the fire in a manner that promotes a positive and harassment free work environment and creates a “no tolerance” atmosphere for harassment, alcohol, or illegal drug use. All personnel assigned shall be treated with dignity and respect. Issues related to performance, behavior, and conduct of resources and personnel assigned to the incident will be undertaken with the DNRC Line Officer.
* Aviation safety is a high priority. Risk Assessments (weighing the risk against the benefit of the mission and deciding whether the risks are acceptable) will be completed on all aviation missions in support of this suppression effort.
* The final fire package should follow the NRCG standard format. Any items that are missing or incomplete should be listed on a separate document for the DNRC.
* Provide training opportunities for Agency personnel to strengthen our organizational capabilities and complete training assignment’s.

We appreciate your flexibility and team’s commitment to the County Cooperative Fire Control mission in support of Yellowstone County and their residents.

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Hoyt Richards Date

DNRC Line Officer, MTDNRC

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Dennis Pitman, Yellowstone County Fire Chief Date

**I accept this delegation**:

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David Hamilton

Incident Commander Date/Time

Montana DNRC-County Assistance Team

**CONTACT INFORMATION**:

**Hoyt Richards;** DNRC Fire Line Officer; 406-475-4202

**Mike O’Herron**; DNRC Fire Line Officer; 406-240-4199

**Derek Yeager**: Southern Area FMO; Cell: 406-698-3473

**Southern Area Fire Duty Officer**; Cell: 406-591-5489

**Billings Interagency Fire Dispatch Center**: 406-896-2900

**Yellowstone County 911 PSAP (Yellowstone County fire dispatch)**: 406-657-3000

**Dennis Pitman; Yellowstone County Fire Chief**: Cell; 406-930-0379

**KC Williams: Yellowstone County DES Coordinator/Fire Warden**; Cell: 406-208-0506

**Kent O’Donnell: Yellowstone County Sheriff’s Lieutenant**; Cell: 406-406-208-0559