

**File** 1230/5130  
**Code:**  
**Route**  
**To:**

**Date:** August 12, 2020

**Subject:** Delegation of Authority and Leader's Intent for the Bear Creek Fire

**To:** Mr. Sampson, Incident Commander (Northern Rockies Team 5 Type 2 Incident Management Team)

Welcome to the Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest, the MT DNRC Central Land Office, BLM Dillon Field Office, and the community of Dillon, Montana. The letter serves as your delegation for the authority to manage the Bear Creek Fire, as well as the authority for initial response to new ignitions within the existing Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) to you as the Incident Commander. You will assume responsibility for managing the incidents on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 0600.

This delegation carries the full responsibility for all aspects of management including the assigned firefighting resources, tactical and logistical equipment, facilities, costs, and the rehabilitation of suppression impacts as a result of suppression actions.

We have attached our *Leader's Intent Statement* and the following documents:

- WFDSS Decision
- Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest COVID19 Medical Plan
- Medical Emergency Evacuation Plan
- Mop-up/Rehabilitation Guidelines
- Northern Rockies Coordinating Group Community & Structure Protection Guidelines

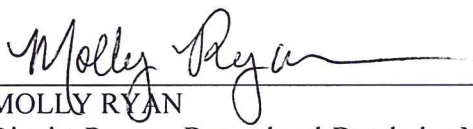
**Key contacts** on this fire: Phone numbers are in the *IMT Briefing Document*

Molly Ryan	Agency Administrator USFS (B-DNF)
Cheri Ford	Forest Supervisor USFS (B-DNF)
Mike Goicoechea	Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor USFS (B-DNF)
Anton Brennick	Agency Representative USFS (B-DNF)
Hoyt Richards	Agency Administrator DNRC
Tim Egan	Agency Administrator's Representative DNRC
Amanda James	Agency Administrator BLM Dillon Field Office
John Thompson	District FMO BLM Western Montana District
Brian Anderson	Acting FMO & Forest Duty Officer USFS
John Huston	Central Land Office FMO DNRC
Matt Nelson	District Assistant Fire Management Officer (DAFMO) USFS
Don Coppell	Unit FMO DNRC
Cydney Janssen	Forest Public Affairs Officer (PAO) USFS
Katie Bonogofsky, Randie Adams	Resource Advisor(s) (READ) USFS
Elizabeth (Bidly) Smiet	Incident Business Advisor (IBA) USFS
Charlie Wilson	Forest Law Enforcement Patrol Captain (LEO) USFS
Don Hammack	Forest Safety Officer USFS
Tom Wagenknecht	Beaverhead County Fire Warden
Paul Craft	County Sheriff

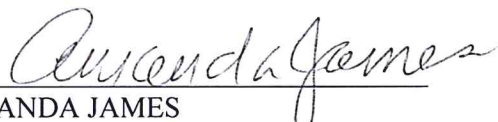
Barrett Hospital Nurse Station	<b>Contacts continued on next page</b>
Sue Hansen	Beaverhead Cunty Health Nurse
BJ Klose	Dillon VFP Fire Chief

Our Agency Representatives will be available to you throughout your time on this incident. A meeting between you and the applicable AAs daily before the Planning meeting would be appreciated. A time can be identified that works for both parties.


We very much look forward to working with you on this fire and expect you to actively discuss strategies and tactics with us or our representatives. We are hoping for a safe and successful assignment.

  
 MOLLY RYAN  
 District Ranger, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

8/13/2020  
 Date

  
 AMANDA JAMES  
 Field Manager, Dillon Field Office

8/13/2020  
 Date


  
 TIM EGAN  
 Dillon Unit Manager, Montana DNRC

8/13/2020  
 Date

  
 TOM RICE, Beaverhead County Commissioner

8/13/2020  
 Date

I accept this delegation of authority:

  
 JOE SAMPSON, Incident Commander

8/13/2020  
 Date

Enclosures: Leader's Intent, WFDSS Decision, Medical Emergency Evacuation Plan, Beaverhead-Deerlodge COVID19 Medical Plan Mop-up/Rehabilitation Guidelines, Northern Rockies Coordinating Group Community & Structure Protection Guidelines

**Leader's Intent**  
**For Northern Rockies Team 5 Type 2 Incident Management Team on the Bear Creek Fire**  
**Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Dillon, Montana**

**General Expectations for the IMT:**

- ✓ *Our core value is human safety.* As the Incident Commander, you are responsible for the safety of all firefighters assigned to the incident and we expect that every decision you make takes into account long and short term risk of exposure without creating unnecessary risks.
- ✓ Be diligent with your efforts to minimize exposure of COVID 19 amongst the Team and resources. Keep in mind that working this fire and managing the risks of COVID are not separate, but rather integrated into all safety and risk conversations.
  - Wear masks at all time when meeting with the public.
  - Explore all options for virtual meetings including public meetings.
  - Team briefings should have minimal staff attend with follow up in module units.
  - Wear masks and space appropriately during all briefings.
  - As practical, isolate all resources in module units to prevent cross contamination between resources.
  - Have resources keep logs of contacts.
  - If someone is sick or exhibiting signs of COVID 19, work through the B-D Forest COVID19 response plan and the Beaverhead-County Health Department to follow protocol for testing, isolation, etc, and contact all line officers immediately.
  - Be prepared to work with the County on contact tracing for outside resources who may be positive for COVID 19.
- ✓ Firefighter and public safety will be of the utmost importance in the management of this incident.
- ✓ This fire will be safely, efficiently and mindfully managed until all of the incident objectives are successfully obtained.
- ✓ Minimize exposure to firefighters and the public, to reduce potential of no serious accidents or injuries.
- ✓ Values at risk will be successfully protected by using the appropriate resources to implement tactics in locations with reasonable probabilities for success.
- ✓ Minimize suppression damage to the land and natural resources.
- ✓ Maintain and improve relationships by communicating & listening to local partners, landowners, and community leaders.
- ✓ Wise investments of taxpayer assets.

**Incident Objective and Requirements:**



- *Incident Objectives/Requirements* and courses of actions items related to safety will be prioritized over the other critical values at risk.
- Base all your actions on the *Incident Objectives and Requirements and Course of Action* as stated in the published Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) decision.
- If a new WFDSS Decision is required, we will discuss the new strategy and corresponding tactics and document any key decisions within the WFDSS program.
- **Objectives:** Current objectives are to fight the fire aggressively not only to contain the fire, but minimize fire fighter exposure to COVID 19, and minimize impact/threat to private property, particularly structures, by keeping the fire on federal lands.
- **Strategy – WFDSS Course of Action**
  - Use direct, indirect & point source suppression strategies suppress and/or guide the fire into natural and man-made barriers.
  - Ensure strategic & safety conditions are such to ensure the highest probability of success.
- **Critical Values at Risk: Private lands**
  - Homes, cabins and structures north and south of the fire.
- **Values at Risk: Resources**
  - Prevent Spread of Aquatic Invasives: dip buckets using one water source at a time on National Forest lands to minimize chances of cross-contamination of minnows. If you must use multiple sources, disinfect between sources. For State protection, dip sources may be utilized in the same watershed as long as buckets are disinfected between watersheds. The north and south fork Everson creek contain genetically pure Westslope Cutthroat Trout.
  - Multiple cultural resources are located across all ownership in the area. In the event cultural sites are found, threatened, or damaged, contact the READ as soon as practicable.
  - Fully inform and coordinate with range permittees through Randie Adams (POC Range B-DNF) and Ryan Martin (POC Range BLM DFO)
  - Fully inform and coordinate with all ranch operations on adjacent private land.
  - Discuss and receive permission for planned burn out operations on State or County protection with the DNRC line officer or representative. At the time of the discussion be prepared to discuss landowner or permittee engagement strategy prior to the operation.
- **Safety**
  - Follow the policy for national work/rest guidelines for shift and assignment lengths for all incident personnel.
  - Document on the ICS-215R the use of LCES, ensuring all personnel comply with the 10 Standard Fire Orders and mitigate the 18 Watch-Out Situations.
  - If appropriate, ensure the use of night tactical operations are thoroughly assessed including the risk and benefits of conducting two operational periods per day, and documented on the ICS-215R.
- **Coordination (*individual/agency names & phone #s in IMT In-Briefing*)**

- Work with the Beaverhead County Sheriff, Fire Warden, B-D FMO, County DES Coordinator, and DNRC FMO, Western District BLM FMO, to develop operational plans and, if needed, evacuation plans.
- Work closely with the assigned Resource Advisors, to ensure fire suppression impacts to natural and cultural resources are minimized. Consult with them regarding the use of heavy equipment, retardant avoidance areas, noxious weed best management practices, aquatic invasives, and threatened and endangered species.
- Ensure trash and recycling are kept orderly.
- Develop a public information plan for the incident within 24 hours considering internal staff, external partners, and interested publics in the following communities:
  - Dillon, MT
  - Jackson, MT
  - Wisdom, MT
  - Grant, MT
  - Tendoy, ID
  - Salmon, ID
  - Leadore, ID
- In the event of an accident, implement the Medical Emergency Evacuation Plan, working through Dillon Interagency Dispatch Center, and immediately notify us and our representative, the Forest Safety Officer, and the Forest Duty Officer. If an accident takes place on state protection, immediately notify DNRC Line Officer. Also notify the Forest IBA to coordinate medical paperwork for any injured employees. *If there is a serious accident or injury, please notify all Agency Administrators directly.*
- **Human Resources:**
  - Take quick and decisive action to address disciplinary problems that could jeopardize firefighter or public safety in or around camp or on the incident.
  - Ensure all personnel understand they have the right to reasonable accommodation and to work in a work environment free of discrimination and harassment.
  - If the number of assigned personnel reaches 300, assign a Human Resources Specialist (HRSP).
  - Ensure the HRSP documents any corrective actions regarding civil rights and employee conduct, listing any follow-up actions required. *If there is a serious CR/HR incident, please notify all Agency Administrators directly.*
- **Recordkeeping:**
  - Create and maintain incident folders on the FTP site per Regional Protocols on a daily basis. Daily IAP and Map updates need to be posted on this site.
  - Ensure your accurate records and locations for all accountable property ordered and deployed on this incident.

- **Cost Management:**

- Evaluate all management actions on a cost-vs-benefit basis to achieve objective of containing the fire.
- If necessary, implement cost share agreements and document decisions related to cost sharing, keeping the IBA informed on decisions affecting the agreements developed by the applicable agency.
- Monitor incident costs, maintain a cost summary, and keep us informed for inclusion in the Periodic Assessment.
- Be responsive to changing conditions such as right sizing your IMT and organization as appropriate.
- Cache and Buying Team orders will be accounted for and returned to the cache or Forest. If fire crosses protection boundaries, engage in conversations with applicable line officer or representative to discuss returning ordered items.
- If the fire crosses protection boundaries assure that costs are tracked in such a manner that a cost share agreement can be accommodated.

- **Structure Protection:**

- Follow the *2018 Northern Rockies Coordinating Group Community & Structure Protection Guidelines* on federal lands.
- The objective for structure protection is to prevent the wildfire from reaching private land and structures. If necessary, work closely with State and County for structure protection off federal lands.
- We expect you to ensure that safe, appropriate, cost effective, and reasonable tactical actions for which wildland fire fighters are trained and equipped are taken.
- Decisions to invest in protecting property and landscapes must weigh the values at risk, probability of occurrence, and probability of success against the cost of implementing the protection strategy and firefighter exposure.
- Use of tactics such as gelling, wrapping, extensive hazardous fuels modification, setting up sprinkler systems around individual homes, and utilization of specialized structure firefighting resources are expected to be rare exceptions, and we expect to be consulted prior to implementation.

**End of Assignment:**

Your IMT will be evaluated on how well you met the delegation of Authority and the Agency Administrator's Intent.

At the completion of your assignment, you will receive a written Performance Evaluation from us prior to your departure. Certain evaluation elements, such as accountable and property control, claims investigation/documentation, and financial and payment documentation, may not be completed at that time but will be incorporated in the final evaluation.