
**MONTANA INTERAGENCY COORDINATION GUIDE:
WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES
AND PRIVATE LANDOWNERS
BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER WILDFIRES**

APPENDICES

JULY 2004



TOOLS FOR IMPROVED COORDINATION

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PLEASE NOTE: All links to websites included in these appendices were checked and functional as of July 2004, but be aware that websites and addresses can change.

APPENDIX A: EXAMPLES OF MECHANISMS FOR COORDINATION

Mechanisms for coordination include formal agreements such as MOUs, mutual aid and cooperative agreements, plans such as community wildfire protection plans, and collaborative working relationships such as committees, partnerships, and task forces. This appendix provides examples of various mechanisms for coordination.

I. Memoranda of Understanding

MOU between the U.S. Forest Service Northern Region and the Natural Resources Conservation Service - to provide personnel and equipment to plan and implement burned area emergency rehabilitation. See pages 22-24.

www.fireplan.gov - Three MOUs are available in the “Reports” section of the National Fire Plan website:

Memorandum of Understanding for the Development of a Collaborative Fuels Treatment Program - provides a framework for the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Association of State Foresters, and National Association of Counties to collaborate on annual selection of fuels treatment work.

Memorandum of Understanding for Coordination and Cooperation of Fire Department Wildland Fire Assistance Programs - provides for coordination of the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Forest Service, National Association of State Foresters, and U.S. Fire Administration in delivery of wildland fire assistance programs.

Memorandum of Understanding on Policy Principles for Woody Biomass Utilization for Restoration and Fuel Treatments on Forests, Woodlands, and Rangelands - provides for coordination among the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Energy, and U.S. Department of the Interior in developing complementary policies and procedures to encourage use of woody biomass byproducts from restoration and fuels treatment projects.

2. Community Wildfire Protection Plans

www.stateforesters.org - *Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan: A Handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities* (2004). This handbook is designed to assist communities in creating community wildfire protection plans that conform to both the spirit and letter of the Health Forests Restoration Act, and was prepared through a joint effort by the National Association of State Foresters, National Association of Counties, Society of American Foresters, Communities Committee of the Seventh American Forest Congress, and Western Governors' Association.

NFP Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Assessment and Mitigation Planning Guide - see pages 25-30.

www.mcfpa.org - *A Framework for Collaboration in the Wildland-Urban Interface of the Bitterroot and Missoula Valleys*

www.bitterrootfireplan.org - *Bitterroot Community-Based Wildland Fire Risk Mitigation Plan*

Other wildfire protection plans in Montana: The BIA has completed a hazard assessment/mitigation plan for every tribal reservation in Montana. The table on the following page lists counties that have received assistance from various sources for development of fire plans.

COUNTY	DES/FEMA/PDM	FOREST SERVICE	BLM ASSESSMENT
Beaverhead	X	X	X
Broadwater	X		
Butte-Silver Bow	X		
Carter	X		X
Chouteau			X
Custer	X		X
Daniels	X		
Dawson	X		
Deer Lodge	X		
Fergus	X	X	X
Flathead	X		
Gallatin	X		
Golden Valley	X		X
Glacier			
Jefferson	X		
Lewis & Clark	X	X	
Lincoln	X	X	
Judith Basin	X	X	X
Lake	X		
Liberty	X		
Madison		X	
McCone	X		
Mineral	X		
Missoula	X		
Musselshell	X	X	X
Park	X		
Petroleum	X	X	X
Pondera	X		
Prairie	X		
Powder River		X	
Powell	X		
Ravalli	X		
Roosevelt	X		
Rosebud			X
Sanders	X	X	
Sheridan	X		
Sweetgrass	X		X
Toole	X		
Valley	X		
Wheatland			X
Yellowstone	X		X

APPENDIX B: OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ENHANCE COORDINATION

1. Examples of successful partnerships and collaborative efforts related to wildfire protection:

www.wildfireprograms.usda.gov - National Wildfire Programs Database

<http://tnc-ecomagement.org/Fire/> - North American Fire Learning Network. The network is a joint program of The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Department of the Interior, and focuses on development and implementation of compatible fire management strategies in multi-partner landscapes.

www.fs.fed.us/vegtools/community/index.shtml - examples of partnerships

www.rockymountainwildlandfire.info - information and strategy for the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership, an interagency effort to reduce hazardous fuels along Colorado's Front Range

2. Guidance to enhance interagency coordination for wildfire protection:

www.napawash.org - Two reports from the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) offer recommendations for enhancing interagency coordination: *Containing Wildfire Costs: Enhancing Hazard Mitigation Capacity* (Jan. 2004) and *Managing Wildland Fire: Enhancing Capacity to Implement the Federal Interagency Policy* (Dec. 2001). The executive summary for the 2004 report and the entire 2001 report can be downloaded from the site. Copies of the publications may also be ordered from the site.

3. General guidance to enhance collaborative efforts and partnerships:

www.fs.fed.us/vegtools/community/index.shtml - includes links related to community collaboration

www.redlodgeclearinghouse.org - information include examples of successful partnerships, a handbook on collaboration and sources of technical assistance and training

www.snre.umich.edu/ecomgt/information.htm - information includes case studies and lessons learned from collaborative natural resources management. One example given is a MOU between the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, BLM's Butte Field Office, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, and Helena National Forest.

4. Other guidance for preparing community hazard-mitigation plans:

www.fema.gov -The Library at FEMA's website contains an extensive number of publications and reports on planning for hazard mitigation, including recommendations for building partnerships and developing community support.

5. Examples of State/regional websites with information on wildfire protection and/or funding opportunities

www.southwestareagrants.org - example of a website listing federal and state assistance grants, contractor information, and links to other resources

www.rockymountainwildlandfire.info - example of website listing sources of funding and assistance for wildfire prevention and mitigation activities

6. Catalog of Disaster Assistance Programs

www.fs.fed.us/r1/nfp/old/disaster_assist.pdf - *Assistance Available Through A Presidential Disaster Declaration: A catalogue.* USFS Northern Region, September 2000.

APPENDIX C: LISTING OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS BY AGENCY

Adapted from *Containing Wildfire Costs: Enhancing Hazard Mitigation Capacity* (National Academy of Public Administration, Jan. 2004)

Agency	Program	Type of Assistance	Funding Level/ Cost-Share Requirements	Eligibility Requirements	Purpose	When Program Can Help	Contact Information or Website
Federal Government							
BIA	Forestry on Indian Lands	Direct payments for specified use; provision of specialized services; advisory services and counseling	\$10,000-\$1,000,000	Tribal governments and their members and native American organizations authorized by tribal governments	To maintain, protect, enhance, and develop Indian forest resources through the execution of forest management activities.	Before fire	Local BIA office
BIA	Indian Community Fire Protection	Direct payments for specified use	\$200-\$140,000	Federally- recognized tribal governments	To provide funds to perform fire protection services for tribal governments that do not receive protection from state or local governments. Funds can be used to support staff, train volunteer firefighters, repair existing firefighting equipment and buy new equipment.	Before fire	Local BIA office
BLM	NFP Community Assistance	Project grants and technical assistance	\$1,000-\$50,000 10% cost share; may be in-kind	Counties	To complement BLM's efforts in implementing the National Fire Plan; aids communities at risk from catastrophic wildfires by providing assistance in areas including planning, defensible space creation, and education.	Before fire	BLM Field Office
CSREES	Cooperative Forestry Research	Formula grants	\$30,000-\$700,000	State institutions	To encourage and assist the states in carrying on a program of state forestry research at state forestry schools, and to develop a trained pool of forest scientists capable of conducting needed forestry research (including protection of forest resources against fire).	Before fire	USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service www.csrees.usda.gov/

Agency	Program	Type of Assistance	Funding Level/ Cost-Share Requirements	Eligibility Requirements	Purpose	When Program Can Help	Contact Information
DOE	Regional Biomass Energy Program	Grants	Varies depending on region and degree of cost-sharing (Cost-sharing is encouraged)	Profit organizations, private nonprofit institutions/ organizations, intrastate, interstate, state and local government agencies, universities	To support increased production and use of biomass energy resources.	Before fire	DOE, Office of Fuels Development www.ott.doe.gov/rbep
FEMA	Assistance to Firefighters Grants	Grants	\$900-\$700,000 Requires cash cost share: Population of 50,000 or less – not less than 10% Population greater than 50,000 – not less than 30%	Fire departments of a state (defined as agencies or organizations with a formally recognized arrangement with a state, territory, local, or tribal authority to provide fire protection to a population within a fixed geographical area)	To provide direct assistance, on a competitive basis, to fire departments of a state or tribal nation to enhance their abilities with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. 2004 eligible program areas include (1) operations and fire safety; (2) fire prevention; and (3) fire-fighting vehicle acquisition.	Before fire	U.S. Fire Administration www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-service/grants/afgp/grants.shtm
FEMA	Fire Management Assistance Grants	Grants and specialized services	75/25 cost share	State and tribal governments	To provide grants to states, tribal governments and local governments for the mitigation, management and control of any fire burning on publicly (nonfederal) or privately owned forest or grassland that threatens such destruction as would constitute a major disaster.	During fire	FEMA Regional Director
FEMA	Hazard Mitigation Grants	Grants	75/25 cost share	State and local governments, tribes and tribal organizations, certain non-profits; must be serving residents of a presidentially-declared disaster area	Provides grants to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration.	After fire	www.fema.gov/fima/hmgp

Agency	Program	Type of Assistance	Funding Level/ Cost-Share Requirements	Eligibility Requirements	Purpose	When Program Can Help	Contact Information
FEMA	National Fire Academy Educational Program	Training		Any individual who is a member of a fire department or has significant responsibility for fire prevention and control	To increase the professional level of the fire service and others responsible for fire prevention and control. Provides training at the National Fire Academy facility in Maryland and in the field in cooperation with state or local fire-training agencies.	Before fire	Educational Technology Services Branch at the National Emergency Training Center, National Fire Academy www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-service/nfa/nfa.shtm
FEMA	Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grants Program	Grants	Up to \$3 million federal share for mitigation activities; no cap on mitigation planning 75/25 cost share; small and impoverished communities: 90/10	Emergency management agencies of state and tribal governments; local and tribal governments may be sub-grantees	To assist states and local governments (to include tribal governments) in implementing cost-effective hazard mitigation activities that complement a comprehensive mitigation program.	Before fire	FEMA regional offices www.fema.gov/fima/pdm.shtm
FEMA (USFA)	Reimbursement for Firefighting on Federal Property	Direct payments for specified use	Up to \$500,000	Fire departments	To provide reimbursement to fire departments for fighting fire on property owned by the federal government.	During fire	FEMA (USFA) www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-service/grants/federal/fedguide/fedfire.shtm
FEMA	State Fire Training Systems Grants	Grants	\$25,000-\$30,000 per state	Fire and emergency response personnel	To provide financial assistance to state fire training systems for the delivery of a variety of National Fire Academy courses and programs	Before fire	FEMA (U.S. Fire Administration)
FSA	Emergency Conservation Program	Financial assistance		Agricultural producers	Provides emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters	After fire	http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov/ecp.htm
FSA	Emergency Loan Program	Loans		Agricultural producers	Provides emergency loans to help agricultural producers recover from production and physical losses due to natural disasters	After fire	http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov/emloan.htm

Agency	Program	Type of Assistance	Funding Level/ Cost-Share Requirements	Eligibility Requirements	Purpose	When Program Can Help	Contact Information
FSA	Livestock Indemnity Program	Financial assistance		Agricultural producers	Provides partial reimbursement to eligible livestock owners for livestock losses suffered due to a natural disaster	After fire	http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov/lip.htm
NRCS	Emergency Watershed Program	Financial and technical assistance	Up to 75/25 cost share; match may be cash or in-kind	All projects must be sponsored by a political subdivision of the state, such as a city, county, or conservation district.	To implement emergency measures to relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by a natural disaster, e.g., stabilizing streambanks, stabilizing soil in burned areas, restoring vegetation and reseeding, repairing conservation practices.	After fire	www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ewp
NRCS	Environmental Quality Incentives Program	Financial and technical assistance	Up to 75/25 cost share; additional federal cost share for limited resource producers and beginning farmers	Limited to persons who are engaged in livestock or agricultural production	To provide technical, educational, and financial assistance to landowners to address natural resource concerns in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner.	After fire	NRCS website: www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/ Montana NRCS website: www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/
SBA	Disaster Loans	Loans	Amount varies by program	Individuals and businesses that are victims of a declared disaster	Loans include Home and Property, Economic Injury, and Physical Disaster Business Loans	After fire	www.sba.gov/disaster_recov/index.html
SBA	Pre-Disaster Mitigation Loans	Loans		Eligible small businesses	To implement mitigation measures to protect business property from damage that may be caused by future disasters.	Before fire	www.sba.gov/disaster_recov/index.html

Agency	Program	Type of Assistance	Funding Level/ Cost-Share Requirements	Eligibility Requirements	Purpose	When Program Can Help	Contact Information
USFS	Community Planning for Fire Protection	Grants	80/20 cost share	Grants awarded directly to communities (local FS offices identify communities) and variety of other partners: state, county, and tribal governments, and non-profit organizations	To support development of community strategic, action and fire risk management plans; increase community resiliency and capacity; target communities impacted by fires.	Before fire	www.fs.fed.us/r1/nfp/keypoint4/contact_s.shtml
USFS	Cooperative Forestry Assistance	Formula grants and project grants	\$25,000 - \$6,000,000 50/50 to 80/20 cost share depending on program	State Forestry or equivalent state agencies, tribes, non-profits, and municipalities	To assist State Forester or equivalent agencies in stewardship programs on private, state, local and other nonfederal forest and rural lands	Before fire	Delivered through State Forester
USFS	Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management Program	Technical and financial assistance		All federal agencies, states, and tribal governments	To support a coordinated program of forest health monitoring and pest prevention.	Before fire, After fire	Delivered through USFS Field Offices and State Forester www.fs.fed.us/r1/nfp/keypoint4/contact_s.shtml
USFS	Economic Action Pilot Projects	Grants and technical assistance	80/20 cost share	Variety of partners, state, federal, county, local, tribal governments and non-profit organizations	Help communities expand and develop markets for wood products resulting from hazardous fuel removal and use of small diameter material.	Before fire	www.fs.fed.us/r1/nfp/keypoint4/contact_s.shtml

Agency	Program	Type of Assistance	Funding Level/ Cost-Share Requirements	Eligibility Requirements	Purpose	When Program Can Help	Contact Information
USFS	Economic Action Programs	Grants and technical assistance	80/20 cost share	Variety of partners, state, federal, county, local, tribal governments and non-profit organizations	Address long-term economic and social health of rural areas; develop enterprises through uses of forest products, marketing assistance, utilization of hazardous fuel byproducts.	Before fire	www.fs.fed.us/r1/nfp/keypoint4/contact_s.shtml
USFS	Federal Excess Personal Property Program	Property loaned by USFS to State Foresters, who may place it with local fire departments		State fire programs and local volunteer fire departments through State Foresters	To provide assistance to state, county, and local governments by loaning excess federal property (vehicles, equipment, supplies, tools) to states for used in wildland and rural community fire protection.	Before fire	Delivered through State Forester www.fs.fed.us/fire/partners/fepp
USFS	Forest Stewardship Program	Technical assistance		Any non-industrial private forest landowners committed to active management and stewardship of their property for 10 years	To assist state forestry agencies by providing funding for preparation of forest management plans on private, state, and tribal lands	Before fire	Delivered through State Forester
USFS	Hazardous Fuels Reduction	Cost-share funds	50:50 cost share	Non-federal entities	Assists state forestry agencies by providing funding for fuels treatments in the wildland-urban interface	Before fire	Delivered through State Forester www.fs.fed.us/r1/nfp/keypoint4/contact_s.shtml
USFS	Noxious Weed Treatment	Grants		Local weed districts and cooperatives	To treat noxious weeds on private, state, and tribal lands affected by fire	After fire	www.fs.fed.us/r1/nfp/keypoint4/contact_s.shtml
USFS	Rural Community Assistance	Grants		Communities with population 10,000 or less, certain counties and non-profits, tribal governments, educational institutions	Assists communities that have been affected economically due to the loss of jobs or income derived from forestry, forest-related industry, or dependence on National Forest or Grasslands resources	Before fire, after fire	USFS State and Private Forestry

Agency	Program	Type of Assistance	Funding Level/ Cost-Share Requirements	Eligibility Requirements	Purpose	When Program Can Help	Contact Information
USFS	State Fire Assistance	Financial and technical assistance, equipment Includes Western States Wildland-Urban Interface Grants Program	50:50 cost share for funding		Provides state forestry agencies with assistance in delivering a safe, effective, and coordinated wildfire response. Funding is available for preparedness, high-priority prevention, and mitigation education.	Before fire	Delivered through State Forester www.fs.fed.us/r1/nfp/keypoint4/contact_s.shtml
USFS	Volunteer Fire Assistance	Grants	Most grants are \$5,000 or less 50/50 cash or in-kind cost share	Any fire agency or volunteer fire department that serves a community of 10,000 or less	To provide financial, technical, and other assistance to State Foresters and other appropriate officials to organize, train and equip fire departments in rural areas and rural communities to suppress fires.	Before fire	Delivered through State Forester http://dnrcapps.discoveringmontana.com/forestry/dnrcfiresite USFS website: www.fs.fed.us/r1/nfp/keypoint4/contact_s.shtml
Federal Multiagency							
BIA, BLM, FWS, NPS	Rural Fire Assistance Program	Grants	Up to \$20,000 10% cost share, cash or in-kind	Rural/volunteer fire departments serving communities of 10,000 people or fewer that fight fires on or adjacent to DOI lands must have agreement through State Forester or mutual aid or coop. agreement with local DOI agency	To enhance the fire protection capabilities of rural and volunteer fire departments through training, equipment purchases, and fire prevention work.	Before fire	DOI Agency; also delivered through State Forester DNRC website: http://dnrcapps.discoveringmontana.com/forestry/dnrcfiresite

Agency	Program	Type of Assistance	Funding Level/ Cost-Share Requirements	Eligibility Requirements	Purpose	When Program Can Help	Contact Information
State Government							
MT Dept. of Ag.	Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant Program	Grants	Cost share requires some cash (cannot be entirely in-kind)	Funding is generally through a government entity (local weed district, conservation district, extension office, or university)	To assist counties, local communities, researchers, and educators in their efforts to solve a variety of weed problems in Montana. The program provides cost-share funding for local cooperative weed management areas and education and research projects, including nonchemical research and demonstration programs.	Before fire, After fire	County Weed Districts http://agr.state.mt.us/programs/asd/wee_dgrnt.shtml
MT Dept. of Labor and Industry	Unemployment Assistance	Financial	Assistance calculated on an individual basis	Individuals who have worked in "covered" employment with wages for 4 of the last 5 quarters and who are not working through no fault of their own	Provide temporary assistance for individuals who have lost employment	During and after fire	Telephone Claims Center: (406) 444-2545
MT Dept. of Labor and Industry	Disaster Unemployment Assistance	Financial	Calculated on previous earnings	Individuals who do not qualify for unemployment assistance and are not working or have lost wages from disaster	Provide temporary assistance for individuals who have lost employment or wages due to a disaster	During and after fire	Telephone Claims Center: (406) 444-2545
MT Dept. of Labor and Industry	Employment Services	Information		Employers and job seekers	Enable matching of job seekers and employers	During and after fire	http://jsd.dli.state.mt.us/mjshome.asp or any Job Services Center
MT Dept. of Labor and Industry	Dislocated Workers Program	Financial, training	Variable	Individuals who have lost employment and are unlikely to return to work due to declining industries (includes self employed)	Improve long-term employment outcomes for individuals receiving assistance.	During and after fire	Job Services Centers

Agency	Program	Type of Assistance	Funding Level/ Cost-Share Requirements	Eligibility Requirements	Purpose	When Program Can Help	Contact Information
MT Dept. of Labor and Industry	Adult Program	Financial, training	Variable	Individuals who are unemployed or underemployed and lack skills/experience to gain self-sufficient employment	Improve long-term employment outcomes for individuals receiving assistance.	During and after fire	Job Services Centers
MT DNRC Forestry Division	Community Planning for Fire Protection*	Grants	80/20 cost share	Grants awarded directly to communities (local FS offices identify communities) and variety of other partners: state, county, and tribal governments, and non-profit organizations	To support development of community strategic, action and fire risk management plans; increase community resiliency and capacity; target communities impacted by fires.	Before fire	Montana DNRC Forestry Division
MT DNRC Forestry Division	Cooperative Forestry Assistance*	Formula grants and project grants	\$25,000 - \$6,000,000 50/50 to 80/20 cost share depending on program	State Forestry or equivalent state agencies, tribes, non-profits, and municipalities	To assist in stewardship programs on private, state, local and other nonfederal forest and rural lands	Before fire	Montana DNRC Forestry Division
MT DNRC Forestry Division	Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management Program*	Technical and financial assistance		All federal agencies, states, and tribal governments	To support a coordinated program of forest health monitoring and pest prevention.	Before fire, After fire	Delivered through USFS Field Offices and State Forester www.fs.fed.us/r1/nfp/keypoint4/contact_s.shtml

* Funding provided by USFS

Agency	Program	Type of Assistance	Funding Level/ Cost-Share Requirements	Eligibility Requirements	Purpose	When Program Can Help	Contact Information
MT DNRC Forestry Division	Federal Excess Personal Property Program*	Property loaned by USFS to State Foresters, who may place it with local fire departments		State fire programs and local volunteer fire departments through State Foresters	To provide assistance to state, county, and local governments by loaning excess federal property (vehicles, equipment, supplies, tools) to states for used in wildland and rural community fire protection.	Before fire	Montana DNRC Forestry Division
MT DNRC Forestry Division	Forest Stewardship Program*	Technical assistance		Any non-industrial private forest landowners committed to active management and stewardship of their property for 10 years	To provide assistance for preparation of forest management plans on private, state, and tribal lands	Before fire	Montana DNRC Forestry Division
MT DNRC Forestry Division	Hazardous Fuels Reduction*	Cost-share funds	50:50 cost share	Non-federal entities	Provides funding for fuels treatments in the wildland-urban interface	Before fire	Montana DNRC Forestry Division
MT DNRC Forestry Division	Private Forestry Assistance Program				Provides on-site assistance to private forest landowners for forest management		Montana DNRC Forestry Division
MT DNRC Forestry Division	Rural Fire Assistance Program**	Grants	Up to \$20,000 10% cost share, cash or in-kind	Rural/volunteer fire departments serving communities of 10,000 people or fewer that fight fires on or adjacent to DOI lands must have agreement through State Forester or mutual aid or coop. agreement with local DOI agency	To enhance the fire protection capabilities of rural and volunteer fire departments through training, equipment purchases, and fire prevention work.	Before fire	Montana DNRC Forestry Division or DOI Agency DNRC website: http://dnrcapps.discoveringmontana.com/forestry/dnrcfiresite

* Funding provided by USFS

** Funding provided by DOI agencies

Agency	Program	Type of Assistance	Funding Level/ Cost-Share Requirements	Eligibility Requirements	Purpose	When Program Can Help	Contact Information
MT DNRC Forestry Division	State Fire Assistance*	Financial and technical assistance, equipment Includes Western States Wildland-Urban Interface Grants Program	50:50 cost share for funding		Provides assistance in delivering a safe, effective, and coordinated wildfire response. Funding is available for preparedness, high-priority prevention, and mitigation education.	Before fire	Montana DNRC Forestry Division
MT DNRC Forestry Division	Volunteer Fire Assistance*	Grants	Most grants are \$5,000 or less 50/50 cash or in-kind cost share	Any fire agency or volunteer fire department that serves a community of 10,000 or less	To provide financial, technical, and other assistance to organize, train and equip fire departments in rural areas and rural communities to suppress fires.	Before fire	Montana DNRC Forestry Division http://dnrcapps.discoveringmontana.com/forestry/dnrcfiresite
Local Government							
County Weed Districts		Grants		Varies	Individual County Weed Districts may offer grants for noxious weed control.	Before fire, After fire	County Weed District

* Funding provided by USFS

APPENDIX D: WEBSITES FOR CONTACT INFORMATION

FEDERAL

Bureau of Indian Affairs

BIA Regional Fire and Aviation Offices: www.bianifc.org/about/regionsgraf.html

Montana BIA Agency Offices: www.kstrom.net/isk/maps/mt/montmap.html

Bureau of Land Management

Montana BLM State and Field Offices: www.mt.blm.gov/lib/directory.html

See p. 21 for counties covered by BLM Mitigation and Education Specialists

Farm Service Agency

See USDA Service Centers

Federal Emergency Management Agency

FEMA: www.fema.gov

FEMA Region 8: www.fema.gov/regions/viii/index.shtm

National Weather Service

Billings Forecast Office: www.wrh.noaa.gov/Billings

Glasgow Forecast Office: www.wrh.noaa.gov/Glasgow

Great Falls Forecast Office: www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls

Missoula Forecast Office: www.wrh.noaa.gov/Missoula

Natural Resources Conservation Service

See USDA Service Centers

USDA Service Centers

http://oip.usda.gov/scripts/ndCGI.exe/oip_public/state?state=MT

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Montana Offices: <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/mt.l.html>

U.S. Forest Service

USFS Northern Region: www.fs.fed.us/r1/

U.S. Small Business Administration

www.sba.gov

STATE

Montana Department of Labor and Industry Workforce Services Division

<http://jsd.dli.state.mt.us/>

Montana Department of Military Affairs Disaster and Emergency Services Division

www.discoveringmontana.com/dma/DES

Montana Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division

www.dnrc.state.mt.us/forestry/

LOCAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL

American Red Cross

American Red Cross: www.redcross.org

American Red Cross Montana Chapter: www.montanaredcross.org

Conservation Districts

See USDA Service Centers

County Disaster and Emergency Services Offices

Montana State DES links to county information:

www.discoveringmontana.com/dma/des/relatedlinks.asp

County Weed Districts

Montana Weed Control Association: www.mtweed.org

Montana State University Extension Service

<http://extn.msu.montana.edu/>

Resource Conservation and Development Areas

www.westernrcd.org/montana.html

BLM West Zone:

Terina Mullan
Mitigation and Education Specialist
BLM MT BFO – Butte, MT
106 N. Parkmont
Butte, MT 59701
Office: 406-533-7665
terina_m_mullen@blm.gov

Works with the Butte, Dillon, and Missoula Field Offices. Covers the following Counties: Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Granite, Ravalli, Deer Lodge, Park, Silver Bow, Beaverhead, Madison, Gallatin, Jefferson, Broadwater

BLM Central Zone:

Shannon D. Iverson
Mitigation and Education Specialist
BLM MT LFO- Lewistown, MT
Airport Rd., PO Box 1160
Lewistown, MT 59457-1160
Office: 406-538-1989
Fax: 406-538-1904
Shannon_iverson@blm.gov

Works with the Glasgow and Havre Field Stations, and the Lewistown Field Office. Covers the following counties: Glacier, Toole, Pondera, Teton, Liberty, Hill, Chouteau, Cascade, Blaine, Fergus, Judith Basin, Lewis and Clark, Meagher, Petroleum, Phillips, Valley

BLM East Zone:

Dena Lang
Fire Mitigation and Education Specialist
BLM - Eastern Montana Fire Zone
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Works with the Billings and Miles City Field Offices, and North and South Dakota. Covers the following counties: Wheatland, Sweet Grass, Golden Valley, Stillwater, Carbon, Yellowstone, Big Horn, Treasure, Musselshell, Rosebud, Powder River, Carter Custer, Fallon, Prairie, Wibaux, Garfield, McCone, Dawson, Richland, Roosevelt, Daniels, Sheridan

MASTER INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT
between
USDA FOREST SERVICE, NORTHERN REGION
and the
USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

This MASTER INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT is hereby entered into by and between the USDA Forest Service, Northern Region, hereinafter referred to as the Forest Service, and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, hereinafter referred to as the NRCS or the cooperator, under the provisions of the Economy Act of June 30, 1932 (31 U.S.C. 1535, Pub. L. 97-258 and 98-216).

A. PURPOSE: This agreement is established for the purpose of providing personnel and equipment to plan and implement burned area emergency rehabilitation (BAER). The agreement will also cover training in emergency burned area rehabilitation procedures and policies.

B. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL INTERESTS AND BENEFITS: The Forest Service and NRCS both have worked cooperatively in recent years to effectively reduce the post fire threats to life and property from debris torrents and floods. On a regular and reoccurring basis both groups have the need of additional manpower to complete this emergency work.

In consideration of the above premises, the parties hereto agree as follows:

C. FOREST SERVICE SHALL:

Reimburse the NRCS for the actual costs, including overhead (i.e. administration of the task orders, etc.), salary, benefits, equipment rental, supplies, materials, and travel for work performed in accordance with the approved Task Order. All NRCS costs associated with training, planning and implementation of Forest Service BAER activities shall be reimbursed.

D. NRCS SHALL:

At the request of the Forest Service, and as available, provide personnel to perform project work and/or training for Forest Service BAER activities.

E. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY ALL PARTIES THAT:

1. MODIFICATION. Modifications within the scope of the instrument shall be made by mutual consent of the parties, by the issuance of a written modification, signed and dated by all parties, prior to any changes being performed.

2. TERMINATION. Either of the parties, in writing, may terminate the instrument in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of expiration. No parties shall incur any new obligations for the terminated portion of the instrument after the effective date and shall cancel as many obligations as possible. Full credit shall be allowed for NRCS expenses and all non-cancelable obligations properly incurred up to the effective date of termination.

3. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS. The principal contacts for this instrument are:

Forest Service Project Contact	Cooperator Project Contact
Bruce Sims	Dave Kascht
USDA Regional Hydrologist	USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
P.O. Box 7669	10 E. Babcock, Federal Building Room 443
Missoula, MT 59807	Bozeman, MT 59715
Phone: 406-329-3447	(406) 587-6761
FAX: 406-329-3171	(406) 587-6761
E-mail bsims@fs.fed.us	dkascht@mt.usda.gov

Forest Service Administrative Contact	Cooperator Administrative Contact
Roger Henderson	Marsha Harris
USDA Forest Service, Northern Region	NRCS Contracting Officer
PO Box 7669	10 E. Babcock, Federal Building Room 443
Missoula, MT 59806	Bozeman, MT 59715
Phone: (406) 329-3264	(406) 587-6859
FAX: (406) 329-3536	(406) 587-6808
E-Mail: rmhenderson@fs.fed.us	marsha.harris@mt.usda.gov

4. COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION DATE. The instrument is executed as of the date of the last signature and is effective through December 31, 2006 at which time it will expire.

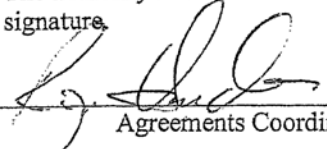
5. TASK ORDERS. Any services to be furnished under this agreement shall be ordered by issuance of task orders. The task orders shall be bilateral, requiring mutual consent of the parties involved in the planning and implementation of rehabilitation activities. Task orders will be issued on Form AD 672, "Reimbursement or Advance of Funds Agreement". The signing issuing official for the NRCS will be the State Conservationist, unless delegated. The signing official for the FS will be in accordance with elegation of authority specified in FSM 1580.41.

6. NON-FUND OBLIGATION STATEMENT. This instrument is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor or transfer of anything of value involving

FS Agreement No. 02-IA-11015600-060
Cooperator Agreement No. 67-0325-02-47

reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties to this instrument will be handled in separate task orders that shall be made in writing by representatives of the parties and shall be authorized by the statutory authority stated within this agreement.

The authority and format of this agreement has been reviewed and approved for signature.



Agreements Coordinator *6/11/02*

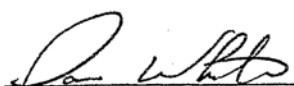
9/12/02

Date

THE PARTIES HERETO have executed this instrument.

USDA NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE

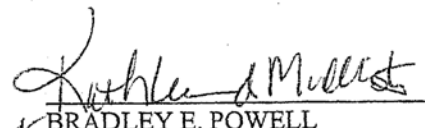
USDA FOREST SERVICE,
NORTHERN REGION



DAVE WHITE
State Conservationist

6-28-02

DATE



BRADLEY E. POWELL
Regional Forester

9-13-02

DATE

WILDLAND / URBAN INTERFACE FIRE ASSESSMENTS AND MITIGATION PLANNING GUIDE

Summary

Wildland/urban interface (WUI) Assessments and Mitigation Plans are key implementation tasks to achieving the goals of the National Fire Plan and the 10-year Strategy. These assessments and plans can also be important components to the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) planning process. To facilitate the inclusion of NFP documents into the PDM plan, all WUI community assessments and plans within Montana will be conducted at a countywide level. The Federal Wildland Fire Agencies involved in the delivery of the National Fire Plan in Montana fully support the state and county Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning effort as required by the Disaster Mitigation Act.

Introduction

This paper provides the **minimum** elements to be addressed in a WUI Assessment and Mitigation Plan as needed for the National Fire Plan. Many, if not all of the components of the Wildland Assessment and Mitigation Plan parallel the requirements of the Pre-disaster Mitigation Plan. It is recognized that the needs and planning complexities of WUI communities vary widely. Assessments and plans may include additional elements, as appropriate for the specific community or planning area. WUI assessments and plans must be prepared and implemented through a coordinated interagency effort with a high degree of community involvement. Additionally, roles and responsibilities of respective participants must be defined clearly. Federal agencies will provide technical and financial assistance to communities within legislative authorities. For their part, participating counties will plan, implement, and manage the county mitigation projects. These county-based efforts are critical to the long-term success of the National Fire Plan and the 10-Year Strategy.

WUI assessments provide analysis of the county values at risk, levels of protection, and fire hazards to the county. Assessment of risks, hazards, values, and fire protection capabilities are used as a basis for the subsequent Mitigation Plan. A Mitigation Plan articulates strategies to reduce loss from fire, identifies projects and activities that address risks, hazards and operational or infrastructure deficiencies identified in the assessment. It includes a tactical component that assigns roles and responsibilities for carrying out specific tasks. The strategy should include some type of educational component.

WUI Assessments and Mitigation Plans can be facilitated in-house, particularly for small counties with less complex issues. Some offices have opted for contract services to perform the bulk of the work associated with these documents when dealing with larger areas or more complex planning scenarios. Contracting and procurement personnel can provide assistance in securing the services of a qualified contractor and management of contracts. Information within this guidance will assist in the preparation of specifications and statements of work. Either way, it is essential to remember that the essence of the Community Assistance Program is the active, cooperative, and ongoing participation of the county. Each county is unique, and federal

employees who are well acquainted with the county issues are best suited to determine how to establish and maintain working relationships with key participants in these communities.
Elements of the WUI Community Assessment

1. Executive Summary: **The document should begin with a concise summary of the findings of the Community Assessment.**

2. Identification and Description of Areas to be Evaluated: This section includes a detailed discussion of the community, including demographics, location, topography, and basic climate data. This narrative should include a description of the current fire protection organization within the community and past wildland/urban interface fire history.

3. Assessment of Risk: **Identify** the primary risks associated with identified values and determine if patterns or trends exist (i.e. along major travel corridors from car fires; in a lightning strike zone, campfires left unattended in a recreational use area, along railway corridors, etc.). Assign adjective or frequency ratings appropriate to the area. Example: ignition risk is high, medium or low. Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies (RAMS) prevention data for the area may be incorporated if it is available.

4. Assessment of Hazards:

- a. Assessment of Vegetative Fuel Hazards: Identify wildland and landscape/ornamental fuels within the WUI areas. Describe fuels composition, type, arrangement, etc. Photo points are appropriate, but if the terrain and fuels are relatively homogenous throughout, such as in a grassland or brush type, only a few representative points are necessary. If fuels and terrain vary, include a suite of photo points that sufficiently portray a cross-sectional representation of the fuels profile. Assign adjectives or hazard severity ratings using a rating system appropriate for your practical use. RAMS data for the area may be used if it is available.
- b. Assessment of Structural Fuel Hazards: Assess vulnerability of structures to ignition from firebrands, radiation, and convection. Structures can be surveyed individually and averaged to calculate a rating for a subdivision or neighborhood. This provides a very accurate rating but is potentially very time consuming. If a neighborhood in the assessment area is fairly homogenous, with lot sizes and building style, a sampling scheme can be used, such as every third or fourth house. Those scores can then be averaged for the area. Assign adjectives or hazard severity ratings using a rating system appropriate for your practical use. "The Wildland / Urban Interface Fire Hazard Assessment Methodology" developed by the National Wildland / Urban Interface Fire Protection Program is one useful procedural reference, and there are many others which have been developed to meet the needs of specific communities.
- c. Identification of Unique Regional or Site Specific Wildfire Severity Factors: Identify and discuss local conditions that may occur and contribute to the probability of increased fire ignitions (human or natural) and or extreme/severe fire behavior.

Examples include increased human activities (i.e. large recreational gatherings, seasonal and holiday celebrations, etc.) unique or seasonal weather events (i.e. Santa Ana winds,

inversions, etc.), topographic features that influence wildfire behavior (i.e. steep slopes, canyons and draws, saddles, etc.) and other circumstances (widespread insect or freeze-related mortality of vegetation, heavy fuel loadings, etc). Describe normal fire behavior parameters, resistance to control, rates of spread, fire safety issues, and unique situations and conditions. Assign adjectives or hazard severity ratings using a rating system appropriate for your practical use.

5. Values to be Protected: Assess, identify and prioritize community values to be protected or those things, places, activities, resources or qualities that agencies, citizens and stakeholders consider as significant and would be severely impacted by wildfire. Assign an adjective rating or scale to values as appropriate for the area.

a. Assessment of Economic Values:

- Agriculture
 - Consumptive Commodities
 - Timber
 - Grazing
 - Watershed
 - Community infrastructure
 - Power Substations & Corridors
 - Communication Sites/Facilities
 - Transportation Corridors
 - Major Manufacturing and Utilities Facilities
 - Water Storage and Distribution
 - Fuel Storage Facilities
 - Hospitals & Healthcare Facilities
 - Landfills & Waste Treatment Facilities
- Tourism
 - Recreation
 - Hunting
 - Fishing

b. Assessment of Ecological Values:

- Biological Diversity
- Wildlife Habitat
- T&E, Endemic Species
- Air and Water Quality
- Soil Quality
- Ecosystem Health

c. Assessment of Social Values:

- Quality of Life
 - Aesthetics
 - Home and property
 - Air Quality
 - View

Livestock and Pets
Livelihood
Cultural / Historical sites and features

6. Assessment of Fire Protection Preparedness and Capability: **Identify the level of emergency preparedness and the response capability of local infrastructure and area fire protection personnel and resources.**

a. Community Preparedness:

Emergency Planning
Organized Stakeholder/Partnership Group
Pre-attack/Disaster Plan
Mitigation plan/actions

b. Fire Protection:

Historic Workload
Types and number of responses
Wildland/Structural/Medical
Proficiency
Qualifications/Experience
Volunteer vs. Paid
Training
Responses
Resources
Cooperating Partners/Agencies
Equipment/Apparatus
Fiscal
Fire Protection Systems & Infrastructure
Hydrant/water sources
Detection/Communication
Access/Transportation

7. Appendices: Includes maps, photos, and other supporting documentation

WUI Mitigation Plan

The wildland fire mitigation plan identifies, prioritizes, and outlines a strategy and specific actions that are needed to reduce the risk of wildfire-related loss of the priority values to be protected identified in the assessment. The plan provides a timeline of activities and identifies the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders. Funding needs and workloads can be estimated with a properly prepared plan. A well-developed background section and project methodology section will be helpful in the preparation of NEPA documentation, if needed. The following components, as a minimum, should be a part of a mitigation plan:

1. **Executive Summary:** Provide a succinct description of the community and the findings of the WUI Community Assessment (risks, hazards, values to be protected, fire protection and emergency services capability). Provide the basic findings, goals and strategy of the WUI Mitigation Plan and project(s) or activities proposed. Explain how the recommended actions will mitigate losses to the priority community values identified in the WUI assessment.

2. **Background:** The background provides specific information on the individual community the plan addresses, the threat of wildland fire based on fire history, fire behavior characteristics, and values to be protected.
 - a. **Existing situation:** Summarize the community's current conditions and circumstances. Specifically, the historic role of wildland fire in the regions surrounding the community. Discuss the community's vulnerability to wildfire, including identified risk and hazard factors, values at risk, and level of fire protection.

 - b. **Organizational structure:** Identify organizational process used to identify and assemble stakeholder group. Provide a list of involved stakeholders and partners. Describe the organization/group and identify primary leadership and support positions (i.e. Firesafe Council, chairperson, agency liaison, technical specialists, etc.) Describe how the group will function in the short (planning stage) and long (implementations phase) term. Discuss items such as frequency of meetings, communications, plan review and evaluations, consensus process, etc.

3. **Goals and Objectives:** Goals are broad statements of intent. For example, a goal is to reduce dangerous vegetative fuel accumulations in and near subdivisions. Objectives are specific statements describing conditions that would meet a goal. For example, the removal of bug-killed trees and ladder fuels within subdivisions and adjacent areas within the next 12 months.

4. **Strategic Plan/Desired Condition:** This section succinctly and specifically describes the priority values to be protected as determined in the assessment process and identifies strategies to achieve desired conditions (i.e. Mule Creek Canyon Watershed; reduce vulnerability of watershed from stand-replacement wildfires by reducing fuel load through planning and implementing fuel treatments projects; Local Fire Protection Capabilities: Enhance safety and response capabilities of local fire department by improving communications and dispatch procedures and system, providing annual wildfire prevention and response training, and ensuring an adequate complement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); Mule Creek Canyon Summer Homes: Improve survivability of residences in this subdivision through Firewise educational programs, workshops and demonstration projects).

5. **Actions and Methodology (Tactical Plan):** This section describes the specific projects and types of actions to be employed, such as fuels treatments, rural fire assistance, and public education, and the methods by which they are carried out. For example, Mule Creek Canyon subdivision: reduce vulnerability of the subdivision to wildfire damage by use of a Youth Conservation Crew to remove all bug-killed white fir and all live white fir less than 6 inches within a 300 feet buffer zone around the subdivision.

6. **Roles and Responsibilities (local, state, federal, etc.):** From the beginning of the assessment and planning process, it is vital to clearly define roles and responsibilities. The WUI Community Assessment and Mitigation Planning process is a community-based, collaborative project to help WUI communities reduce wildfire-related damages and losses. This collaboration requires a strong joint effort and stakeholder commitment. Federal land management agencies facilitate various projects and provide financial, logistical, and technical support in specific areas. For their part, the communities assume certain responsibilities, tasks and resource commitments that are appropriately theirs to accomplish and fulfill within a given schedule. It is essential to clearly articulate what BLM can provide within the process and how the agency can assist or support mitigation and to establish a clear and mutual understanding of education and mitigation, and what actions or resources the community, individual agencies, organizations, and homeowners must accomplish or contribute in order for the effort to be as fully successful as possible.

7. **Funding Guidelines:** A number of funding sources are available to communities for various aspects of mitigation and preparedness. It is important to understand what funds are available, how to access them, restrictions and authorities on how specific funds may be used.