



**MILES CITY DIVISION
of the
NORTHERN ROCKIES COORDINATING GROUP
EASTERN ZONE**

2014

ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN

Between the

**STATE OF MONTANA
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Eastern Land Office
Northeastern Land Office
Southern Land Office**

And the

**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
State Division of Wildland Fire**

And the

**USDI
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern Montana/Dakotas District
Miles City Field Office
North Dakota Field Office
South Dakota Field Office**

**Fish and Wildlife Service
Mountain-Prairie Region
Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge
Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge**

**Bureau of Indian Affairs
Northern Cheyenne Agency
Fort Peck Agency**

And the

**USDA
Forest Service
Custer Gallatin National Forest
Ashland Ranger District
Sioux Ranger District**

2014 NRCG MILES CITY DIVISION AOP SIGNATURE PAGE

State of Montana
DNRC, Eastern Land Office


Chris Pileski
Area Manager

4/11/14
Date

State of Montana
DNRC, Northeastern Land Office


Clive Rooney
Area Manager

4-14-14
Date

State of Montana
DNRC, Southern Land Office


Matt Wolcott
Area Manager

May 05 2014
Date

State of South Dakota
Division of Wildland Fire


Jay Esperance
Division Director

4-11-14
Date

Montana Fire Wardens Association


Rodney Dornbach
Fire Wardens' Representative

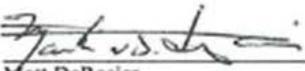
4/28/14
Date

BLM, Eastern Montana/Dakotas District


Diane Friez
District Manager

4/15/2014
Date

USFWS, Charles M. Russell NWR


Matt DeRosier
Project Leader, Acting

4/21/14
Date

USFWS, Medicine Lake NWR


Michelle Chappell
Refuge Manager

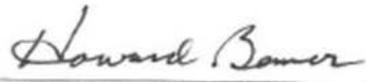
04/21/2014
Date

BIA, Northern Cheyenne Agency


Michael Addy
Agency Superintendent

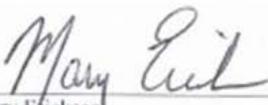
4-29-14
Date

BIA, Fort Peck Agency


Howard Berner
Agency Superintendent

4/28/14
Date

USFS, Custer Gallatin National Forest


Mary Erickson
Forest Supervisor

4/16/14
Date

Table of Contents

Purpose & Authority	1
Glossary of Terms	1
Maps.....	1
Participants and Representatives.....	2
Utilization of Interagency Facilities.....	3
Interagency Cooperation and Coordination	3
Miles City Division Fire Management Group	3
Montana Fire Wardens.....	4
Standards.....	4
Shared Resources	4
Resolution of Disagreement.....	4
Operational Procedures	5
A. Fire Protection.....	5
B. Dispatch.....	5
C. Fire Prevention/Education and Mitigation	5
D. Fire Restrictions	6
E. Detection.....	6
F. Reporting Fires	6
G. Distance/Boundaries	6
H. Initial Attack	7
I. Command Structure.....	7
Fires That Escape Initial Attack/Project Fires	7
Structure Fire Protection	8
Decision Documents/Delegation of Authority.....	8
Aviation Management.....	9
Fire Cause and Determination	9
Fire Investigation	10
Fire Numbers/Reports	10
Prescribed Fires/Project Work	10
Resource Advisors	10
Reimbursement for Suppression Expenses	11
Mutual Aid Period.....	11
Repair of Suppression Damage.....	12
Communications	12
Training.....	12
Administrative Procedures.....	12
Appendix A: Boundaries of DNRC State Land Offices and Counties	13
Appendix B: EMFZ Dispatch Boundaries.....	14
Appendix C: Agency Protection Responsibilities.....	15
Appendix D: FWS Charles M. Russell NWR Fire Management Addendum.....	16
Appendix E: FWS Medicine Lake NWR Fire Management Addendum	19
Appendix F: USFS Custer Gallatin National Forest Fire Management Addendum.....	20

Table of Contents (continued)

Appendix G: Harding County, South Dakota Fire Management Addendum.....25
Appendix H: BLM Fire Management Addendum26
Appendix I: NRCG/RMCG Neighborhood Dispatch Agreement28
Appendix J: Sample Cost Share Agreement.....30
Appendix K: Agency Resource Listing34
Appendix L: Agency Contact Listing36

PURPOSE & AUTHORITY

This Annual Operating Plan (AOP) provides a basis for cooperative wildland fire and aviation management activities on adjoining agency, state and private lands within the Miles City Division of the Northern Rockies Coordination Group (NRCG) Eastern Zone.

This AOP is consistent with the guidance in the *Montana Cooperative Fire Management & Stafford Act Response Agreement 2011-2015* and the *Montana Statewide Operating Plan 2011-2015* for portions of Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. This AOP is hereby made and entered into under the aforesaid authorities by and between the **State of Montana**, Department of Natural Resources & Conservation, Eastern Land Office, Northeastern Land Office, and Southern Land Office; **State of South Dakota**, State Division of Wildland Fire, hereinafter referred to as the “**State**,” the USDI, **BLM**-Montana & Dakotas, Eastern Montana/Dakotas District; USDI, **USFWS**-Mountain-Prairie Region, Charles M. Russell Refuge and Medicine Lake Refuge; USDI, **BIA**-Rocky Mountain Region, Northern Cheyenne Agency and Fort Peck Agency; and the USDA, **USFS**-Custer Gallatin National Forest, Ashland Ranger District and Sioux Ranger District, hereinafter jointly referred to as the “**Federal Agencies**.” The Federal Agencies, the State and Local Government Agencies may be hereinafter jointly referred to as the “**Agencies**.”

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Local Government Agencies are any county (unincorporated towns), municipality, city, town, special district (i.e. fire district or service area), any Indian tribal government or authorized tribal organization, and any rural community, or other public entity.

Jurisdictional Agencies are responsible for all planning documents i.e. land use, resource and fire management plans and decision support documents, for a unit’s wildland fire and fuels management program.

Protecting Agencies implement the actions documented and directed by the appropriate planning documents and decision support documents for initial and extended attack on wildfire incidents. They provide the supervision and support including operational oversight, direction and logistical support to Incident Management Teams.

Supporting Agencies provide suppression or other support and resources to the Protecting Agency.

MAPS

The maps on Appendixes A and B show jurisdictional boundaries of dispatch centers, counties, state land offices and federal agencies. Appendix C shows the protection lands of each agency.

PARTICIPANTS & REPRESENTATIVES

State of Montana	Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) Eastern Land Office (ELO) Northeastern Land Office (NELO) Southern Land Office (SLO)
State of South Dakota	State Division of Wildland Fire (SDWF)
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	Eastern Montana/Dakotas District (EMDD) Miles City Field Office (MCD) South Dakota Field Office (SDD) North Dakota Field Office (NDD)
United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge (CMR) Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge (MLR)
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)	Northern Cheyenne Agency (NCA) Fort Peck Agency (FPA)
United States Forest Service (USFS)	Custer Gallatin National Forest Ashland Ranger District (ARD) Sioux Ranger District (SRD)
Montana County Fire Wardens	Carter County Custer County Dawson County Garfield County McCone County Fallon County Powder River County Prairie County Richland County Wibaux County Big Horn County Daniels County Sheridan County Rosebud County Roosevelt County Valley County Treasure County
South Dakota County Fire	Harding County

UTILIZATION OF INTERAGENCY FACILITIES

The Eastern Montana/Dakotas District (EMDD) Fire and Operations Buildings are owned by the BLM and located on BLM land in Miles City, Montana and occupied by BLM and State of Montana employees. Miles City Interagency Dispatch Center (MCC), which is located in the EMDD Fire Building, provides centralized dispatch services for the State of Montana, State of South Dakota, BLM, FWS, BIA and USFS.

Reimbursable costs to the BLM have been established through Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's), under the authority of *The Reciprocal Fire Act of May 27, 1955*, with the State of Montana and the State of South Dakota. The State of Montana MOU is in exchange for DNRC access to BLM-provided office spaces and an equipment compound. The State of South Dakota MOU is in exchange for MCC dispatching Harding County Volunteer Fire Department resources.

An *Interagency Agreement for Facilities Use (#L11PG00320)* has been established between the BLM and USFS that outlines an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGO), which is prepared and reviewed annually. This Facilities Agreement provides access for the BLM to the Ashland Ranger District's warehouse, hangar and Diamond Butte and Poker Jim lookouts, as well as the Sioux Ranger District's office space and warehouse storage. A separate billing process as outlined in Appendix F establishes reimbursement procedures for quarters at the Ashland and Sioux Ranger Districts.

INTERAGENCY COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

The State of South Dakota; DNRC, Eastern Land Office, Northeastern Land Office, Southern Land Office; USFWS, Charles M. Russell Refuge, Medicine Lake Refuge; USFS, Custer Gallatin National Forest; BLM, Eastern Montana/Dakotas District; BIA, Northern Cheyenne Agency and Fort Peck Agency; Montana Wardens/ Fire Chiefs Representative are committed to the following mutual actions:

- **Firefighter and Public Safety is Our Number One Priority.**
- **Fire Management requires Partnerships, County, State and Federal.**
- **Maintenance of Safe Professional Interagency Fire Management Programs.**

Miles City Division Fire Management Group: This group will be established to provide oversight and recommendations for all interagency fire activities in the Miles City Division. The group will consist of one representative from each agency party to this agreement as designated by Agency Administrators. The group will oversee implementation and updating of this plan. The chairman will be rotated on an annual basis. The goal of this plan is to establish a high trust culture and represent a shared vision of interagency fire program management.

A Chairman will be nominated from the agency for the year shown below.

AGENCY	DATE
USFS	2014
South Dakota State	2015
BIA	2016
USFWS	2017
BLM	2018
State of Montana	2019

This group will set strategic priorities for resources within the Miles City Division and communicate resource needs or availability to the NRCG Eastern Zone MAC group when conditions warrant.

Trigger points to consider include the following:

- Type 2/1 Incident Management Team requested or deployed; and/or
- Planning Level 4 and higher; and/or
- Level or extent of resource commitment; and/or
- Lightning Activity Level; and/or
- Higher level MAC is initiated at the NRCG Eastern Zone level.

The BLM Eastern Montana/Dakotas District will establish a designated conference call line for the months of July and August. Outside of this period, the agency that requests the conference call will initiate the conference call line. Notification will be provided to the NRCG Eastern Zone.

Montana Fire Wardens: By May 1st of each year, Federal Agencies will furnish to the State the names of individuals recommended for appointment as Fire Wardens. The State will appoint Fire Wardens as appropriate. Fire Wardens have the authority to administer State of Montana fire protection laws and rules (76-13-104, 76-13-116 MCA).

Standards: The goal of the cooperators is to achieve common standards within all the cooperators' best interest, recognizing differing agency missions and mandates. Each signatory to this plan recognizes that other cooperator standards are reasonable, prudent, and acceptable. This clause is not intended to affect the Jurisdictional Party's land management standards.

Shared Resources: Interagency funding, staffing, and utilization of fire resources will be pursued wherever an interagency approach is appropriate and cost effective. All State resources will be coordinated through the appropriate state organization. Shared staffing and funding will be commensurate with each Agency's use of resources and will be agreed to and documented.

Resolution of Disagreement: Should disagreement arise on interpretation of the provisions of this AOP or amendments and/or revisions thereto, that cannot be resolved at the Miles City Division Fire Management Group level, each party shall state the area(s) of disagreement in writing and present them to the other party for consideration. If agreement on interpretation is not reached within thirty (30) days, the parties shall forward the written presentation of the

disagreement to the appropriate agency administrators, (i.e., States [Montana Area Manager and South Dakota Division of Wildland Fire Director]; BLM District Manager; USFWS Refuge Manager; USFS Supervisor, and BIA Superintendent).

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

A. Fire Protection

The states and counties will furnish fire protection consistent with each state's requirements on state and private lands. State and private lands that lie within federal boundaries, that are not affidavit lands or a part of a protection agreement, are protected by the counties. State of Montana and County Cooperative Agreements exist for each county in Montana. The State of South Dakota has established agreements with the Volunteer Fire Departments in Harding County.

The BLM will furnish fire protection to BLM, Affidavit, and Custer Gallatin National Forest lands within the Miles City Division. This agreement is established in the *Montana Statewide Operating Plan 2011-2015*.

CMR, and state lands within the refuge executive boundary, in Garfield and McCone counties are protected by USFWS fire crews located in Sand Creek, Fort Peck and Jordan.

The Northern Cheyenne and Fort Peck Agencies will furnish fire protection on trust lands, which is established in the *Bureau of Indian Affairs Rocky Mountain Agreement*.

B. Dispatch

As signatory to this AOP, the Agencies give authority to the Miles City Interagency Dispatch Center's (MCC) Center Manager to provide services required in support of the MCC Annual Operating Plan, which is a supplement to this AOP. The MCC AOP will be reviewed annually by May 1st.

The Agencies agree to participate in the neighborhood dispatch system. MCC will notify Jurisdictional Agencies, including County Sheriff's Offices, about wildland fires that impact the Miles City Division.

MCC will be responsible for dispatching Agency resources per the MCC AOP. MCC will provide Expanded Dispatch services for any incident that occurs within the Miles City Division.

C. Fire Prevention/Education and Mitigation

- The agencies will coordinate in fire prevention programs in the communities located in the Miles City Division.

- Restrictions and/or closures will be coordinated and implemented as per the Fire Restriction and Closure Plans for each area.
- Agencies will coordinate education and mitigation programs and activities, including county and rural fire assistance, in the communities located in the Miles City Division.
- Burning Permits are identified in specific State-County Cooperative Agreements.

D. Fire Restrictions

Imposing Fire restrictions is the responsibility of the agency administrator of each agency. The decision to enter into Stage 1 or 2 Fire Restrictions is based on current and expected weather and fuel conditions, and the frequency of human caused wildfires and their cause. Should an agency or government impose fire restrictions within their jurisdiction, enforcement of those restrictions is incumbent upon the agency that imposes the restriction.

E. Detection

All methods of detection may be employed throughout the fire season.

Aerial detection will be managed through MCC for the Miles City Division. CMR and MCC will contact one another whenever detection aircraft are flying over the refuge.

Fire Lookout Towers on USFS lands will be staffed by BLM as budget allows.

F. Reporting Fires

All fires and initial action on or near land under the protection of an Agency to this agreement will be reported as soon as possible to the Protecting Agency through the appropriate dispatch center, which includes Federal Dispatch Centers (i.e. MCC) or County Sheriff's Offices. Upon notification, if the Protecting Agency fails to properly recognize and claim ownership, suppression costs for the Protecting Agency's proportionate share will be assessed upon discovering and proof of ownership by the cooperating agency that incurred suppression costs.

G. Distance/Boundaries

A fire burning on or adjacent to a protection boundary will be the responsibility of the protecting cooperators on either side of the boundary. Neither party will assume the other party is aware of the fire or that the other party will take action. Each party will make every reasonable effort to communicate with the other concerning the fire.

Refer to Appendix D for the CMR policy concerning boundary fires.

In instances where the protecting agency's response is constrained/delayed by distance, the closest protection agency should respond. These areas need to be identified and

agreed upon between protecting agencies. In some instances, protecting agencies may develop agreements for protection if distances are prohibitive to a timely initial attack.

H. Initial Attack

Each member to this operating plan may exchange initial attack resources. Federal and State resources will be coordinated through MCC.

Procedures:

1. Upon report of a fire, Agencies will take initial attack action.
2. When a cooperating agency is unable to contact the Protecting Agency the cooperating agency will dispatch initial attack resources to the fire. At the earliest possible time the cooperating agency will inform the Protecting Agency of actions they have taken.
3. All fire suppression action conducted on lands of other Agencies shall be consistent with that Agency's fire suppression policy and the terms of this agreement.
4. Agency-specific protocols governing fire suppression are located in the following Appendices to this AOP: (a) Appendix D for CMR lands administered by the USFWS in the Miles City Division; (b) Appendix F for CGNF lands in South Dakota and Montana within the Miles City Division; and (c) Appendix G for Harding County, South Dakota.
5. Special concerns for firefighter safety specific to areas with known radiation concerns and specific geological hazard areas (i.e. abandoned uranium mines and known Erionite formations and coal seams and H2S are addressed in Appendix F of this AOP. Firefighters will be provided information and action plan pocket guides.

I. Command Structure

The levels of fire complexity and command will vary among agencies. All fires will have an incident commander who is in control of the incident. Unified command will be employed on fires that involve multiple protection jurisdictions. Agencies who provide fire protection for another through agreement will be provided with an agency representative or contact to the incident commander for and specific land management guidance regarding suppression activities.

FIRES THAT ESCAPE INITIAL ATTACK/PROJECT FIRES

It is the responsibility of the Duty Officer(s) to notify agency administrators or delegate of emerging fires that require an extended attack management. The FMOs will involve agency administrators before ordering an Incident Management Team. Orders for Incident Management Teams will be placed through MCC. Fires involving multiple jurisdictions will be managed under a unified command. See Appendix L for agency administrators specific to BLM Field Offices within the Eastern Montana/ Dakotas District.

As incidents grow in complexity, communication will be established with the jurisdictional Agency Administrator to ensure resource objectives are met.

The cooperators will assist each other when fires escape initial attack. Requests for personnel, equipment, aircraft and logistics support for fires that escape initial attack on federal lands will be requested through MCC. For the counties the request will be placed through the county commissioners to the Montana DNRC; in South Dakota to the State Division of Wildland Fire Suppression; and in North Dakota to the North Dakota State Forest Service.

STRUCTURE FIRE PROTECTION

The protection of human life is the single, overriding priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be based on the values to be protected, human health and safety and the costs of protection. Once people have been committed to an incident, these human resources become the highest value to be protected. All WUI fires within the MCC Dispatch Zone are coordinated through MCC. The federal and state protecting agencies primary responsibility and objective for structure fire protection is to suppress wildfire before it reaches structures. The federal and state protecting agencies may assist tribal, county, district and municipal fire departments in exterior fire protection when requested. Exterior structure protection measures may include tactics such as foam or water application to exterior surfaces of buildings and surrounding fuels; fuel removal, and burning out around buildings and improvements. Structural fire protection which involves interior and exterior action on burning structures is the responsibility of tribal, county, district or municipal fire departments that have the jurisdictional authority, training, and equipment to take appropriate action where needed. For further reference, please see the *Northern Rockies Structure Protection Guidelines* at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/index.html>

DECISION DOCUMENT / DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

It is recognized that initial attack and rapidly expanding incidents often involve multiple jurisdictions. Determining the appropriate jurisdictions and obtaining delegations of authority in an efficient and effective manner is often difficult and may be further hampered by the remoteness of incidents in relationship to Agencies having authority and jurisdictional responsibility.

The Agencies which are party to this AOP agree that initial attack delegation will be valid until a Protecting Agency Incident Commander or agency representative from the Agency having jurisdiction is on scene, or a revised or updated incident specific delegation of authority is signed. Incidents that have been declared as exceeding initial attack and transition to extended attack should have an incident specific delegation of authority in place as soon as possible. The delegation of authority for Type 3 or Type 4 incidents may be verbal or written based on the Agency Administrator's determination.

The jurisdictional agency will assume the lead for development of the decision document and delegation of authority as required. Appropriate fire management officials will provide

information relevant to the initial stages of the decision document and may provide the situational briefing for the incoming Incident Management Team. If other jurisdictions are involved, the delegation of authority will be signed by all affected agency administrators, or their designees and a unified command will be established to manage the incident.

- 2014 Fire Season the following decision document will be used as needed as according to policy:
 - USFS – WFDSS
 - Montana State – Incident Situation Analysis
 - Montana Counties – Incident Situation Analysis
 - BLM – WFDSS
 - BIA – WFDSS
 - South Dakota State – WFDSS
 - USFWS – WFDSS

For multi-jurisdictional incidents that require a decision document, the point-of-origin jurisdiction agency decision document will become the primary decision tool used by all affected agencies for that particular incident. Regardless of decision document utilized, the Federal Agencies must complete a WFDSS document.

AVIATION MANAGEMENT

Aviation operations are governed by agency specific policies (i.e. DOI Manual 350, BLM 9400; FS 5700; DNRC 1500; etc.). Aircraft responding to fire suppression efforts will retain their own Agency's standards. There are interagency requirements which must be met (such as interagency inspection and carding/approval) to fly agency employees on partnering Agency aircraft.

BLM will notify neighboring agencies of any agency flights that occur within 5 miles of neighboring agency boundaries. Reference BLM State Aviation Boundary Plan.

As part of the aviation support to initial attack activities, Duty Officers should attempt to consult with the Jurisdictional Agency who manages the land before retardant is applied in potentially sensitive areas. Refer to Appendix D and the USFS-Custer Gallatin National Forest Aviation Plan.

Military Operating Area scheduling and deconfliction with the appropriate military flight scheduling desk will follow established procedures as outlined in the Ellsworth Air Force Base MOU and the 120th Fighter Wing Letter of Agreement.

FIRE CAUSE AND DETERMINATION

All initial attack resources shall determine probable fire cause, whether human or natural. Cause determination must begin as soon as possible since evidence is easily destroyed. If the fire is suspected to be human-caused, every effort will be made to protect the origin, regardless of jurisdictional responsibility.

FIRE INVESTIGATION

The Protecting Agency will notify the Jurisdictional Agency as soon as possible if the fire may potentially be a trespass fire. It is the Jurisdictional Agency's responsibility to request an investigation. The Protecting Agency will then be responsible for investigating and determining the cause of the fire. Either the Protecting or Jurisdictional Agency may furnish a qualified Fire Investigator (INVF).

The Agencies may pursue any costs related to fire suppression costs, resource damage and area emergency resource rehabilitation.

FIRE NUMBERS / REPORTS

MCC will assign fire and incident numbers to each fire that they dispatch. MCC will coordinate with Billings Dispatch Center to initiate USFS SO Fire numbers.

State fire numbers will be assigned for fires when the DNRC / SDWFS assists the county or federal agencies.

BIA units are responsible for issuing fire incident numbers on their initial attack fires.

Cooperators will furnish appropriate information for completing the individual fire report within 5 days after fire is declared out. Jurisdictional Agencies will receive a copy of MCC's fire report, along with a map for fires that are 5 acres or larger.

MCC will input BLM and USFS incidents that they dispatch into the *Incident Qualification and Certification System (IQCS)*. FWS will input FWS incidents into IQCS. The BIA will input BIA incidents into IQCS. The States will input State of MT and State of SD fire numbers into IQS.

PRESCRIBED FIRES / PROJECT WORK

Each Agency will retain responsibility for their prescribed fire program. The equipment and resources of all agencies may be utilized to support each other on a reimbursement basis. Reimbursement will be agreed upon prior to project implementation.

It is the responsibility of the initiating Agency to ensure adequate funding is available.

Fire crews may be utilized for resource improvement activities, as negotiated, with approved work plans.

Refer to Appendix F for further guidance regarding USFS protocol.

RESOURCE ADVISORS

In an initial attack, extended attack or escaped fire situation, the protecting agency will contact the jurisdictional agency and assess the need to assign a red-carded Resource Advisor. Under unified command, agencies involved will jointly assess the need to assign a Resource Advisor and make recommendations or act on behalf of the agency administrator for decision.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR SUPPRESSION EXPENSES

The Agency requesting resources is responsible for the cost of ordered resources unless mutual aid or cost share agreements apply. The sending Agency is responsible for the cost of resources sent to a fire that have not been specifically ordered by the other Agency through MCC.

When a Protecting Agency takes suppression action on lands it protects for a Jurisdictional Agency, and the Jurisdictional Agency is requested to assist, the Jurisdictional agency will be considered a supporting agency and reimbursed as appropriate under conditions of this agreement. The exception is if the parties involved are Federal Agencies.

Cooperating agencies will develop cost share agreements as appropriate when multi-jurisdictional incidents occur. Refer to the NRCG policy on Cost Share Methodology at http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/BulletinBoard/NRCG_2011_CostShareMethodologies.docx. A sample cost-share agreement is located in Appendix J.

MUTUAL AID PERIOD

When a Local Government Agency takes suppression action across jurisdictional boundaries in support of a Protecting Agency, the Protecting Agency will not be required to reimburse the Local Government Agency for costs incurred following the initial dispatch of any ground resources to the fire for the duration of the reciprocal period.

- State of Montana Counties - Reciprocal Fire Protection Agreements (Mutual Aid): The Local Government Agency shall assume its own full cost of expenditures for a maximum of eight hours, the reciprocal period, unless the Protecting Agency requests the Local Government Agency to assist during any time of the incident. If the Protecting Agency IC requests the Local Government Agency to assist, the Local Government Agency may be paid back to the first hour of initial dispatch to the incident. Cooperator requested to stay must meet NWCG standards as outlined in PMS-310-1.

In addition, the Federal agencies will provide a maximum of twenty four hours of mutual aid to Counties on State or private lands in Montana. Refer to DNRC-County Cooperative Agreements.

- Harding County Volunteer Fire Departments (Camp Crook, Harding, Ludlow)- Reciprocal Fire Protection Agreements (Mutual Aid): The Harding County VFD's shall assume their own full cost of expenditures for a maximum of three hours, the reciprocal period, unless the Protecting Agency requests Harding County VFD's to continue to assist past the reciprocal three hour period. If requested by the protecting agency, the Harding County VFD's may be paid back to the first hour of initial dispatch to the incident. Refer to the State of SD/Harding County VFD Agreement.

In the case of reciprocal fire protection, priority will be given to the release of a supporting Agency when it is mutually agreed upon by the initial attack forces that the fire situation is such that the Protecting Agency's forces on the scene can adequately control the incident.

Furthermore, within its capabilities, the Protecting Agency will render support to the supporting Agency to include but not limited to food, water, and additional forces to expedite release of the supporting Agency in advance of the maximum twelve hour reciprocal fire protection.

REPAIR OF SUPPRESSION ACTIVITY DAMAGE

Suppression activity damage repair will be the responsibility of the protecting agency or cooperator. Resource Advisors will be consulted prior to initiating any agency land rehabilitation work. Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation will be the responsibility of the jurisdictional land agency.

For Federal agencies, requests for Emergency Stabilization and “Burned Area Rehabilitation” (BAR or BAER) assessments will be initiated by the jurisdictional agencies.

The Local Agencies will need to consult with the State of MT or State of SD for guidance on requesting Suppression Activity Damage Repair and ES/BAR actions on Private or State lands.

COMMUNICATIONS

The agencies agree to allow the use of communication systems such as, computer system access, data transmission lines, and communication sites when there is mutual benefit to the parties. This AOP will serve as an Interagency Radio Frequency Use Agreement, between the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Montana/Dakotas and the signatories of this AOP. The FCC requires that individual MOU’s Memorandums of Understanding) be developed and signed when an agency is using another agency’s radio frequency for Joint Operations and Mutual Aid. See appendix ?? for examples of the MOU templates.

MCC will have the Radio Communication Plan and radio frequencies available at request.

TRAINING

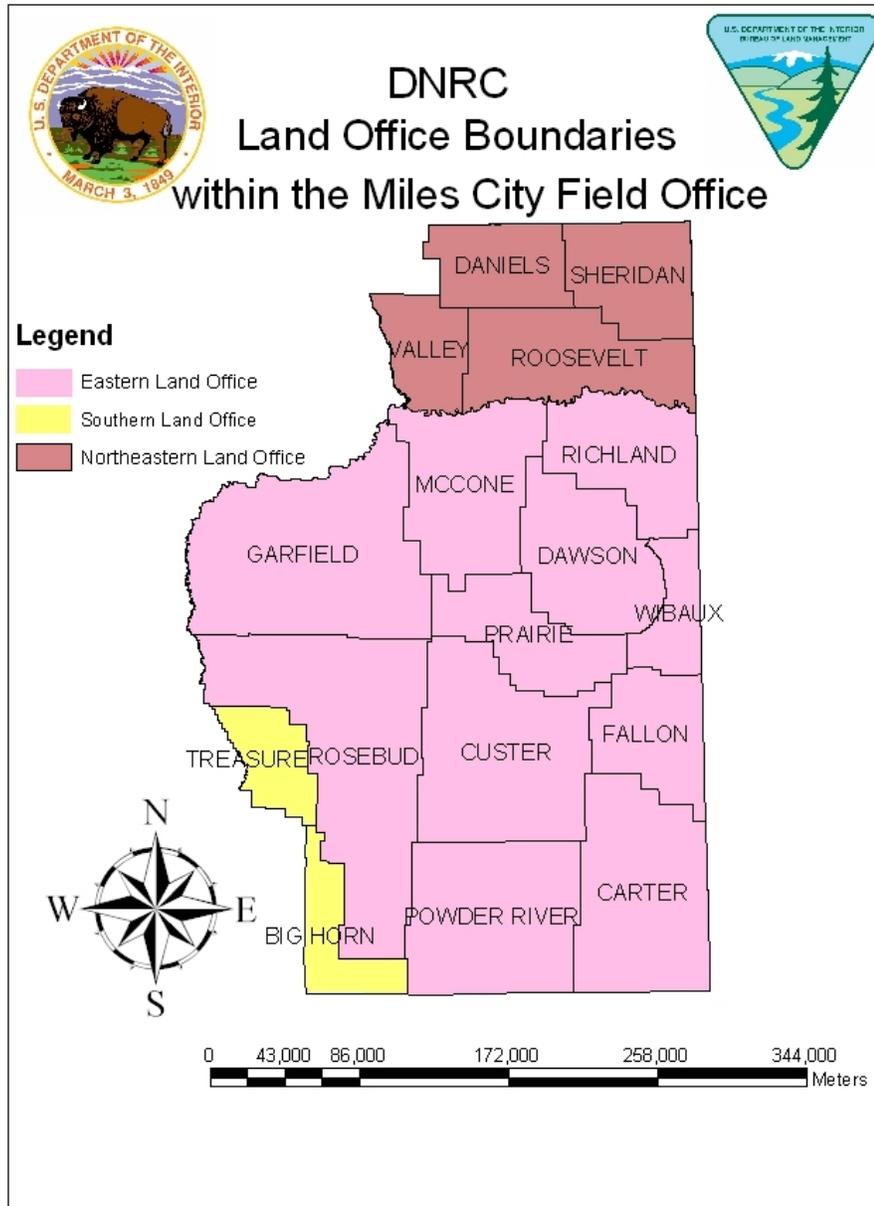
The Agencies party to this agreement will coordinate wildland fire training locally, within the county, state and the Geographic Area. Zone training representatives are responsible for coordinating with all Agencies for the planning and delivery of wildland fire training.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

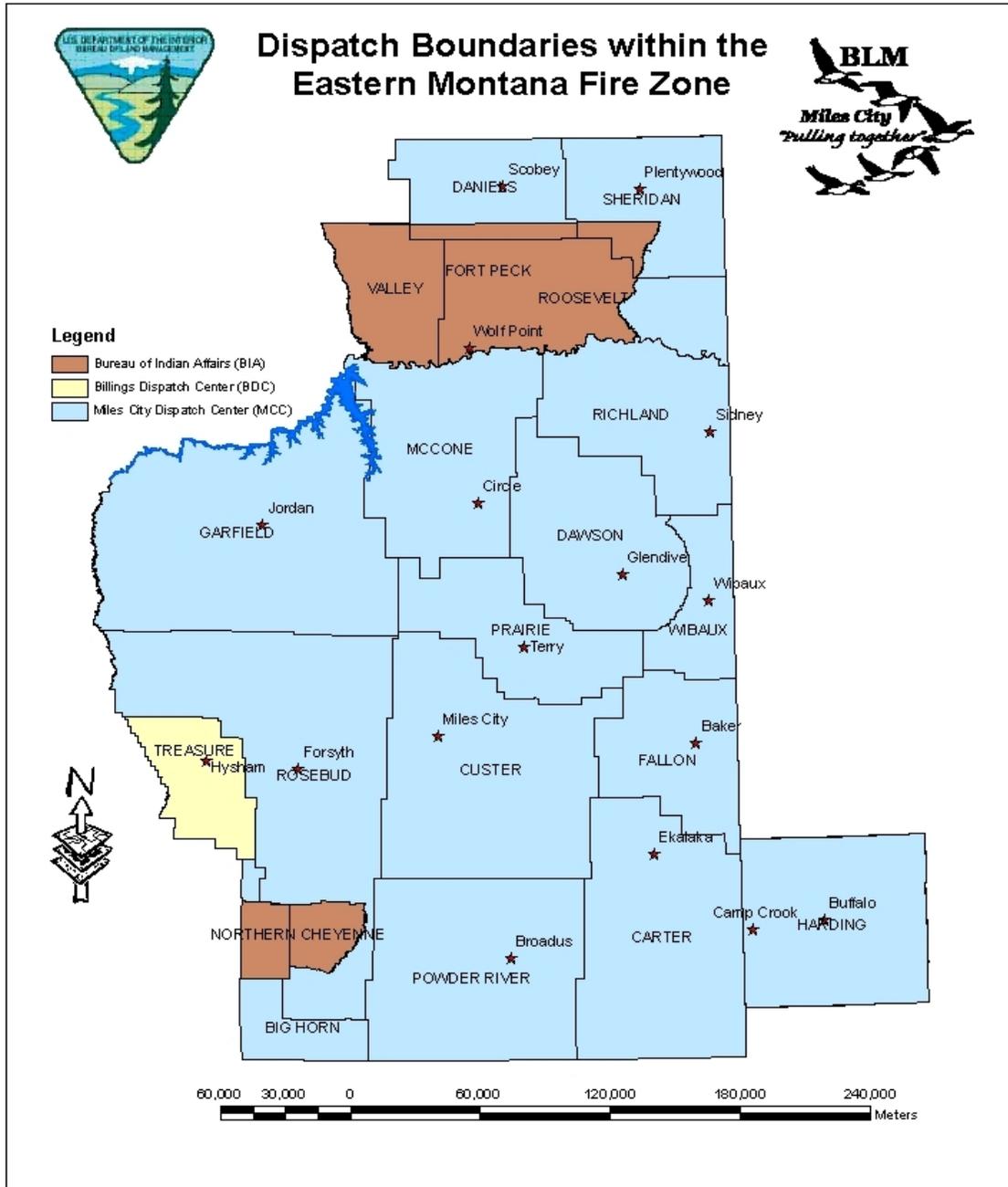
This operating plan will remain in effect until cancelled by mutual agreement of the parties involved and will be reviewed annually by May 1.

MCC will host this meeting on an annual basis. The current chairman will initiate and organize the meeting.

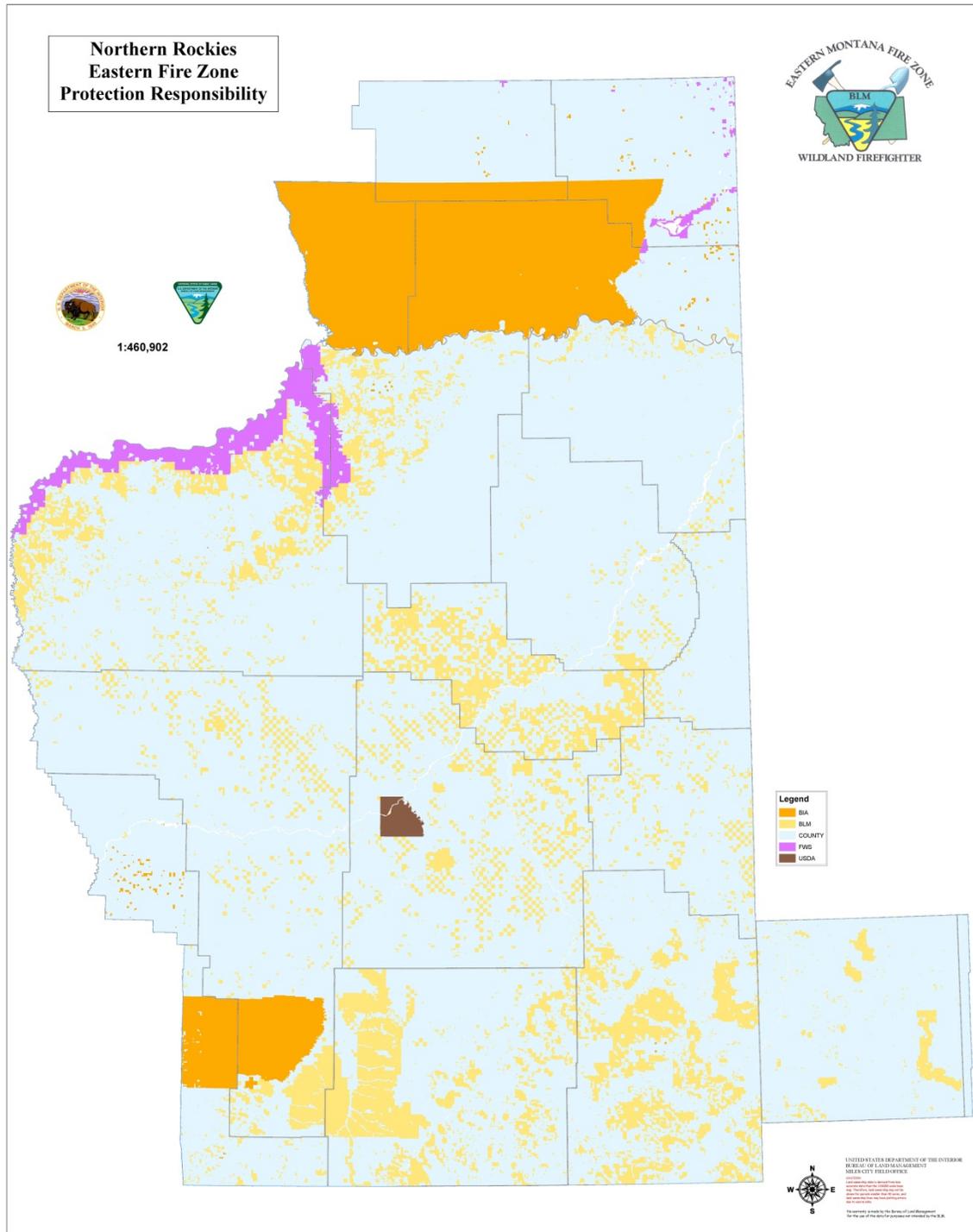
APPENDIX A
BOUNDARIES OF DNRC STATE LAND OFFICES AND COUNTIES



APPENDIX B DISPATCH BOUNDARIES



APPENDIX D AGENCY PROTECTION RESPONSIBILITY



APPENDIX D
FWS CHARLES M. RUSSELL NWR FIRE MANAGEMENT ADDENDUM

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge
and
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern Montana/Dakotas District

A. INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Appendix is to provide a basis for cooperative wildland fire management activities between the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Charles M. Russell (CMR) National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Eastern Montana/Dakotas District (EMDD).

B. REPORTING FIRES

1. Fires can be reported to any agency or dispatch office. Whoever takes the report of fire will contact the other agency if the fire is on or threatening the other agency's lands. Following is the list of phone numbers:

Miles City Dispatch Center (MCC)	406-233-2900
CMR Headquarters in Lewistown	406-538-8706
CMR Jordan Field Station	406-557-6145

Upon a report of fire on FWS lands, dispatchers and/or Fire Duty Officers are to contact the FWS Duty Officer immediately. It will be the FWS Duty Officer's responsibility to know the location and availability of all FWS resources. All fires within one mile of the CMR boundary shall be reported to FWS Duty Officer. Additionally, a fire within one mile of the CMR boundary may generate a response from FWS resources.

2. When reporting a fire, the following information will be provided:
 - Location (geographical and legal description if possible),
 - Size (if known),
 - Fuels (if known),
 - Fire behavior (running, crowning, smoldering, etc. if known),
 - Personnel and equipment on scene or enroute, and
 - Name and phone number of person reporting and source of information if other than person reporting.

C. INITIAL ATTACK

FWS and State lands within the Executive Boundary of the CMR NWR are protected by FWS fire crews located in Sand Creek, Fort Peck and Jordan.

APPENDIX D

FWS CHARLES M. RUSSELL NWR FIRE MANAGEMENT ADDENDUM

Management Response to wildland fires on the CMR NWR is outlined in the CMR Fire Management Plan. These actions have been reviewed and approved by the FWS Agency Administrator, and are within current FWS policy for wildland fires on Refuge lands. FWS policy directs Agency Administrators to use the Appropriate Management Response on all suppression actions involving refuge lands.

If the fire is on FWS administered lands and is within ½ miles of the boundary, a thorough risk assessment will be conducted including the following:

- Potential for fire to cross the boundary onto adjoining lands,
- Predicted weather,
- Fuel conditions, and
- Current fire activity.

After the assessment is complete, one of the following on scene tactical suppression decisions will be made:

- Use roads or natural fuel breaks and control fire, or
- Minimize the fire size in order to limit firefighter exposures, lower costs and lower the risk of the fire escaping across the boundary.

The FWS objective is always to keep wildfire within refuge boundaries. In all cases, the judicious and prudent use of firefighting resources will be used (i.e. engines and crews). **No mechanical equipment or retardant would be used on FWS administered land without Agency Administrator and/or FWS Duty Officer approval.**

If responding resources deem that retardant is necessary to stop a fire from leaving the CMR, dispatch or Duty Officer will notify the CMR Agency Administrator or Duty Officer of the situation and get approval. If notification cannot be made then the resources shall respond as necessary with continued efforts to notify the CMR.

FWS and BLM FMOs will work closely together to ensure dispatching operations are adequate for both agencies.

The FWS will provide a staffing and availability list of initial attack resources by 1000 hours every day to the appropriate dispatch center from June 15 to August 31 (this date may be extended dependent upon fire severity).

MCC will be responsible for dispatching FWS resources located at the Jordan field station locally, geographically and nationally. The FWS Duty Officer will status those resources as available in ROSS, if not statused as available, then a phone call to the Duty Officer should be made to confirm current status.

The following fire management personnel are designated Duty Officers of both agencies and will closely coordinate all activities assuring that all people involved are properly oriented and informed:

APPENDIX D
FWS CHARLES M. RUSSELL NWR FIRE MANAGEMENT ADDENDUM

BLM Fire Duty Officers:

Eric Lepisto, FMO
Scott McAvoy, Assistant FMO
Randy Sanders, DNRC Fire Program Manager

FWS Fire Duty Officers:

Mike Granger, FMO
Jim Forsythe, Assistant FMO
Kevin Beck, Assistant FMO

D. DETECTION

The FWS pilot conducts aerial detection flights over Refuge lands in conjunction with routine Refuge operations on a routine basis. Close coordination between MCC and the FWS is imperative for safe operations. During normal Refuge Operation flights, the Refuge pilot and/or refuge personnel sometimes do find unreported fires. These fires will be reported through normal channels to the appropriate agencies. Refuge operation flights are conducted as needed and are random as to the pattern, no maps are available.

The FWS and MCC will contact one another whenever fire detection aircraft are flying over the refuge during fire season (June 15-September 1).

E. FIRES THAT ESCAPE INITIAL ATTACK

1. The BLM will assist the FWS with fires that escape initial attack if resources are available. Likewise, the FWS will be available to assist BLM on initial attack and project fires when requested and as resources become available
2. The Fire Complexity Analysis will be used to determine the type of fire management team ordered for a project fire on FWS lands. The appropriate Agency Administrator and FWS Duty Officer will make the determination.
3. When project class fires occur on mixed jurisdictional lands, FWS and BLM representatives of each agency will jointly develop and sign the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) output.
4. Communications for FWS fires will utilize FWS fire frequencies, likewise for BLM fires. This will increase firefighter safety by removing the chance of talking over (being walked on by other fires). State Red frequency will be used when Local County and Cooperators are involved in suppression activities.

APPENDIX E
FWS MEDICINE LAKE NWR FIRE MANAGEMENT ADDENDUM

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge
and
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern Montana/Dakotas District

The Medicine Lake NWR is located in Sheridan County. Fire on the Refuge will be initial attacked by Refuge personnel and local VFD's as cooperators. The responsible agency will be notified immediately of fires reported on their land. Wildland fires and prescribed burns will be dispatched by the Sheridan County Dispatch as per an agreement.

The BLM will assist the MLR with fires that go beyond initial attack if resources are available and requested. MLR will assist BLM on initial attack and project fires when requested and if resources are available. Requests fire additional personnel, equipment, aircraft and logistics support will be requested through the dispatch channels.

The Refuge provides important breeding and stopover habitats for a diverse array of migratory birds. The use of aerial retardant on the Refuge is prohibited. Suppression tactics will be discussed with the Project Leader or FWS Duty Officer.

APPENDIX F
USFS CUSTER GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT ADDENDUM

USDA Custer Gallatin National Forest
Ashland and Sioux Ranger Districts
and
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern Montana/Dakotas District

This annual addendum is a working document developed for the purpose of implementing the Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement on a local basis. This plan is specific for those portions of the Custer Gallatin National Forest (CGNF) that have fire protection provided by the Eastern Montana/Dakotas District (EMDD) of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Included are all the National Forest Lands (NFS) in Montana and South Dakota on the Ashland and Sioux Ranger Districts.

PURPOSE

The CGNF is the jurisdictional agency on NFS lands and BLM is the protecting agency. As the protecting agency, BLM is responsible for detecting and providing initial attack response to all wildland fires on NFS on the Ashland and Sioux Ranger Districts. The agencies will utilize a collaborative decision making process to determine the objectives for fire management on CGNF lands in accordance with the Custer Gallatin National Forest Land Management Plan, Fire Management Plan and Montana Cooperative Fire Agreement(2011-2015).

WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT

Fire Management Plan Guidance

BLM will be guided in wildfire response by the following Forest Plan direction, which is identified in the **Custer Gallatin National Forest Fire Management Plan** (Chapter 3.1):

- The appropriate suppression response to control, contain, or confine all wildfires will be compatible with the resource values involved, firefighter safety, and public safety.
- Fires threatening private land, human life, property, or improvements will be controlled as soon as possible providing for firefighter and public safety.
- Cooperation will be provided in interagency fire management efforts.

Agency Administrator Expectations

The CGNF Agency Administrators will present expectations to Incident Commanders and Fire Management employees at annual meetings each spring and throughout the season as needed; the BLM FMO or Acting will be present at the meeting.

Following each fire season, the Agency Administrators will conduct a year end review with BLM and CGNF fire management personnel. This review will provide each agency an opportunity to evaluate pre-season expectations and provide feedback regarding the season's successes and identify areas that need improvement.

APPENDIX F

USFS CUSTER GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT ADDENDUM

Initial Attack Notification and BLM/FS Duty Officer Communication

Notification of all initial attack activities to the Forest Service Duty Officer will be the responsibility of the BLM Duty Officer on call. This notification will be made within one hour of any new start occurring on Forest Service lands. The Forest Service will provide Miles City Dispatch with a Zone Duty Officer schedule by June 1 each year.

CGNF resources will be available to fill the Miles City Division Duty Officer role throughout the fire season.

Staffing and Severity Planning

BLM Fire Management will use current BLM staffing guides and management considerations that ensure adequate levels of staffing commensurate with fire danger and risk. The staffing guides reflect where closest forces are located and their availability during early and late fire season. As the protection agency, the BLM will be responsible for determining the need for severity requests. A copy of Staffing Guides will be provided to the Forest Service.

Wildfire with Resource Benefit Emphasis

The Custer Gallatin National Forest Fire Management Plan provides guidelines for managing wildland fire for resource benefit or multiple objectives. As the jurisdictional agency, the CGNF, with BLM consultation, will determine strategy and objectives for managing fire on Forest Service lands. Both agencies will participate in the decision making process, through routine conversations between the BLM and CGNF, and on a case by case basis dependent on conditions and resource availability.

Natural Resource Mitigations

In accordance with National Forest Resource Management direction (Forest Service Manual 2081.2.10), all suppression actions will minimize the spread of noxious weeds by routine cleaning of agency, contracted and rented equipment at a location that will contain seed removed during cleaning. All contracts for fire management purposes will include a clause in the contract that the equipment is weed free. Known weed infestations areas will be avoided or mitigated if possible when establishing helibases and staging areas.

Fire resources should confine all vehicular travel to existing roadways. If it is necessary to drive off roadways, routes will be used that avoid establishment of new “two-track” travel routes. Roads created will be GPS’d or mapped and included in the fire report to the district office. No mechanical equipment (dozers, etc.) will be used on forest service lands without District Ranger, or designated acting, approval.

The District Ranger will provide a Resource Advisor for suppression resources to determine and minimize the impacts of suppression action on the resources.

APPENDIX F

USFS CUSTER GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT ADDENDUM

Prescribed Fire

The CGNF will provide MCC a copy of signed burn plans. When a prescribed fire is declared a wildfire, the BLM and CNF will collaborate and manage the suppression response. The jurisdictional agency, with assistance from the protection agency, will assume the lead for development of the WFDSS.

PROJECT WORK

“Supplemental Fire Project Agreement” will be utilized under this agreement when mutually agreed upon projects are to be implemented. This agreement will be completed (fully signed) PRIOR to the incurrence of any costs.

FACILITIES

Both Fort Howes (Ashland Ranger District) and Camp Crook (Sioux Ranger District) have Intergovernmental Orders (IGO) prepared and reviewed annually for the facilities’ agreement. The BLM pays for use of Forest Service facilities based on square footage used and months of occupancy. The Forest Service will annually provide to the BLM a current rate sheet reflecting the basis of the BLM’s assessment for the use of the USFS space.

QUARTERS

As the protection agency, the BLM will be allotted space in the Forest Service bunkhouses and will collect the appropriate quarters from their employees, which will then be transferred to the Forest Service. The Forest Service will provide the annual quarters collection rates to the BLM by April 1. The BLM will notify the Forest Service of the amount of quarters collected by December 1 of each year and the Forest Service will bill the BLM for the collected amount by January 30 via a Forest Service Bill for Collection.

BLM PREPAREDNESS AND USFS FUELS ORGANIZATIONS

The BLM and USFS are committed to providing their respective preparedness and fuels organizations to the Ashland and Sioux Ranger Districts. As budgets expand and contract, the BLM and USFS will keep each other informed of changes to their organizations prior to each fire season. Both agencies will consider mutually beneficial partnerships and shared portions of their organizations as opportunities arise.

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY HAZARDS

Radiation Exposure Areas of Concern

There are areas of elevated radioactivity associated with abandoned uranium or coal mines within the Eastern Montana Fire Zone that pose a threat to human health. Fire-fighting activities in these areas could expose firefighters to elevated levels of radiation. Primary exposure concerns for firefighters are inhaling dust generated by firefighting activities, skin contact with coal bearing soils, and ingestion of coal bearing soils during hand-to-mouth activity.

APPENDIX F

USFS CUSTER GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT ADDENDUM

Some naturally occurring coal-seams in South Dakota, North Dakota and Montana, contain elevated levels of radioactive materials as well as other constituents of concern (arsenic, molybdenum, thorium, etc.). In some cases, historic uranium mining within these coal seams has further distributed and exposed these hazards. These areas include, but are not limited to, US Forest Service administered lands in Harding County South Dakota in the following areas: North Cave Hills, South Cave Hills and the Slim Buttes.

For specific direction for field-going personnel, please refer to the “Radiation Action Plan IA Pack” and associated maps. For overview, please refer to “Responding to Wildland Fires in or Near Radioactive Locations” located in Chapter 7 of the Red Book. All materials are posted in the Miles City Dispatch Center and available at the Custer Gallatin National Forest's Sioux Ranger District in Camp Crook, SD. Miles City Dispatch Safety Management website: http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/miles_city_field_office/fire/safety.html

Coal Seams

Coal is naturally occurring and located in rock strata in layers or veins called coal beds or coal seams. Exposed coal seams are abundant through southeast and central Montana as well as western North Dakota and South Dakota. Coal seam fires pose a serious problem that can be a hazard to firefighter's health and safety. Coal seam fires can emit toxic gases, including carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and other potentially hazardous gases.

Firefighters are typically not equipped or trained for coal seam fires and should not attempt to extinguish such fires with hand tools and engines.

Signs of a coal seam fire may include a rotten egg smell, smoking white ash, and continuous or non-continuous lines of what appears to be smoldering black rock (coal) where the flame may or may not be visible. Avoid low lying terrain in known coal seam fire areas especially early in the morning when air temps are cool. Gas tends to sink when air is cool and will accumulate in low lying areas.

Notify all incoming incident command teams and firefighting resources of known locations of exposed coal seams, coal mines, or abandoned coal mines adjacent to ongoing incidents and the risks and precautions to take when working around coal seam fires.

Erionite

Erionite is a naturally occurring mineral associated with volcanic ash altered by weathering and groundwater. Erionite is often termed an “asbestos-like mineral” due to its fibrous nature and needle-like structure. Erionite fibers are microscopic in scale and not possible to see without magnification.

On the Sioux District of the Custer Gallatin National Forest, geologic formations which have been analyzed and determined to contain erionite mineralogy include the Arikaree and White River (including the Brule and Chadron Members) Formations. All land units within the Sioux

APPENDIX F

USFS CUSTER GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT ADDENDUM

District with the exception of the North and South Cave Hills contain these geologic formations and their associated erionite.

Erionite is classified as a Class I Carcinogenic Agent. Erionite fibers, just like asbestos, when inhaled can become lodged in the linings of the lungs, heart, and abdomen and cause cancer. Many researchers have indicated that it is more dangerous than the 6 regulated forms of asbestos. Cancer development is associated with early (childhood and young adult) exposure. Currently, there is no Federal or State regulatory oversight related to the use of erionite.

The Custer Gallatin National Forest has developed a general information PowerPoint presentation, a “Worker Right to Know” letter, a “Photo Guide to Erionite vs. Non-Erionite Bearing Rocks” and a map of the affected geologic formations on the Sioux District to assist field-going personnel with identification of areas with erionite potential. These materials are posted in the Miles City Dispatch Center and at the Sioux Ranger District in Camp Crook, SD. Miles City Dispatch Safety Management website:

http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/miles_city_field_office/fire/safety.html

APPENDIX G
HARDING COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, FIRE MANAGEMENT ADDENDUM

The following protocol shall govern the fire suppression on lands in Harding County, South Dakota under the State of South Dakota, Division of Wildland Fire, within the Miles City Division.

MCC will dispatch Harding County Volunteer Fire Department resources off-district and maintain a rotation.

When Harding County VFDs assist in suppression of fires on Forest Service and BLM lands within Harding County and the Eastern Montana Fire Zone, the State of South Dakota will pay the Harding County VFDs. The State of South Dakota will in turn send a bill for reimbursement to the BLM.

The State of South Dakota will reimburse the Harding County VFDs for fire suppression on State and privately owned “forested” lands within South Dakota.

However, when a South Dakota VFD responds to a local fire on private, state, or federal property on state or federal jurisdiction, within that VFD’s area of primary responsibility or an adjacent area, the State will not pay for such fire suppression costs unless the initial attack effort extends for more than three hours. When the initial attack becomes compensable after three hours, payment is from time of dispatch to the time of release as noted by times on the crew time report.

MCC will manage the extended and expanded dispatch for the State of South Dakota in Harding County.

The State of South Dakota will train and support all Harding County VFDs and provide MCC with copies of red cards for Harding County VFD fire personnel.

APPENDIX H
BLM FIRE MANAGEMENT ADDENDUM

Protocol for Trespass Fire Investigations on BLM lands in the Miles City Division

FIRE CAUSE AND DETERMINATION

Initial attack resources shall determine probable fire cause, whether human or natural. Once a probable fire cause has been determined to be “human,” the Incident Commander will have dispatch request the appropriate investigators and Law Enforcement Officers. The Incident Commander is also responsible for protecting the origin without compromising firefighter or public safety.

FIRE INVESTIGATION

Cause determination must begin as soon as possible due to the delicate nature of fire indicators and appropriate collection of evidence. If the probable fire cause appears to be “human,” every effort will be made to protect the origin, regardless of jurisdictional responsibility. Additionally, if fire cause is unknown or human-caused, the appropriate fire investigator and Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) will be requested. The investigation report will be sent to the jurisdictional agency or cooperator.

In the case of a human-caused wildfire, that originates on BLM managed lands in the Miles City Division, a fully qualified INVF (Cause and Determination Specialist) and federal Law Enforcement Officer will be requested. For “human-caused” wildfires ignited on adjacent land ownership and severely affecting BLM lands, an INVF and federal LEO will coordinate with local investigators and law enforcement officers.

INVF trainees will work with a fully qualified INVF until full qualifications have been accomplished.

Specific agency references to use for guidance in cases of trespass fire on BLM lands in the Miles City Division are found in the *Wildfire Cause and Determination Handbook, PMS 412-1* and the *BLM Fire Trespass Handbook H-9238-1*.

APPENDIX H BLM FIRE MANAGEMENT ADDENDUM

Guidance for suppression strategies and tactics in sage-grouse habitat on BLM lands in the Miles City Division (add map to this section)

Conservation and protection of sage-grouse habitat is important to the overall goals of the Eastern Montana/Dakotas District. The management and conservation of sage-grouse habitat, as a priority, will be addressed in incident objectives and resource allocation. Although conservation and protection of sage-grouse habitat and sagebrush steppe is one of the District's primary objectives, it should never supplant firefighter and public safety as our top priority".

BLM's goal is to: *Sustain or reestablish the integrity of the sagebrush biome to provide the amount, continuity, and quality of habitat that is necessary to maintain sustainable populations of sage-grouse and other sagebrush-dependent wildlife species.*

To accomplish this goal fires in Sagebrush Plant Communities will use strategies and tactics that are low impact and less aggressive. Suppression efforts should include:

- Actions outside Sagebrush communities to contain a wildland fire before it enters the Sagebrush community.
- Use of retardant and foaming/gel agents by aerial and ground resources to pre-treat a community edge for the advancing fire front if can be done safely.
- Tying fires into already established barriers (i.e. roads, rocky breaks, water sources, agricultural fields etc) rather than creating new containment barriers that may fragment the community.
- Limited use of heavy mechanized equipment in these community types to prevent fragmentation and disturbance.
- Limited the use of backfires in these community types, unless safety and protection of property is in jeopardy.

Agency Administrators within the Eastern Montana/Dakotas District

The Eastern Montana/Dakotas District includes the Miles City Field Office, North Dakota Field Office and South Dakota Field Office. The Agency Administrators responsible for BLM administered lands within each Field Office boundary are as follows:

Miles City Field Office – Todd Yeager – Field Manager

North Dakota Field Office – Rick Rymerson –Field Manager

South Dakota Field Office – Marian Atkins – Field Manager

APPENDIX I
NRCG/RMCG NEIGHBORHOOD DISPATCH AGREEMENT
INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT
Between
ROCKY MOUNTAIN COORDINATING GROUP
And
NORTHERN ROCKIES COORDINATING GROUP

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this agreement is to set out in general terms the process for the sharing of resources between the Rocky Mountain and Northern Rockies Geographic Areas.

II. INTRODUCTION

It is the desire of the Rocky Mountain (RMCG) and Northern Rockies (NRCG) Coordinating Groups to improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of firefighting efforts by increasing the availability and mobility of firefighting resources, to include fixed wing aircraft, helicopters, engines, IHCs, hand crews, and overhead, across the boundary between the two geographic areas. This agreement provides Northern Great Plains Interagency Dispatch Center, Billings Interagency Dispatch Center, North Dakota Dispatch Center, Bozeman Interagency Dispatch Center, Cody Interagency Dispatch Center, Casper Interagency Dispatch Center, and Miles City Interagency Dispatch Center the authority to directly utilize the resources of adjoining units across the Northern Rockies/Rocky Mountain geographic areas boundary for suppression needs and prescribed fire activity. Utilization of this agreement is particularly valuable during preparedness levels 3, 4 and 5, and when resources may not be able to commit to a 14 day assignment but can assist neighbors for a negotiated shorter period of time. This agreement will be part of the RMA and NRA Mobilization Guides, chapter 42.3, Cooperation.

II. AUTHORITY

A. Interagency Agreement for Fire Management

1. BLM#: 1422-R220A7-6000
2. USFS: 97-SIA-004
3. USFWS: 144893510-97-H-504
4. BIA: POOC141A9871

B. Interagency State-wide agreements: Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota

C. National Mobilization Guide, Section 13, Mobilization/Demobilization

APPENDIX I
NRCG/RMCG NEIGHBORHOOD DISPATCH AGREEMENT

IV. STIPULATIONS

It is mutually agreed and understood by the dispatch centers that dispatching of resources across the boundaries will follow these rules:

1. Resource orders will only be processed between adjacent dispatch centers.
2. The dispatch centers and GACCs will confer annually to agree upon and document operating procedures.
3. National resources and aircraft dispatched under this agreement will be limited to initial attack unless prior approval was obtained from the GACC. A commit message will also be sent out via DMS for any national resources.
4. Aircraft such as helicopters, airtankers, lead planes or ASMs, or smokejumper aircraft may be mobilized from any location within each zone when identified as closest resources.
5. Only resources regularly assigned to each zone will be used in this agreement. Resources responding across the boundary will not be reassigned beyond the receiving dispatch center's boundary, unless otherwise approved by sending unit.
6. Dispatch centers will work with local managers to determine the length of commitment for dispatched resources.
7. Beyond initial attack, all requests will be placed through the Resource Order Statusing System (ROSS). When ROSS is not operational, use fax and/or phones.

/s/ _____
NRCG Chair

Date

/s/ _____
RMCG Chair

Date

**APPENDIX J
SAMPLE COST SHARE AGREEMENT**

**COST SHARE AGREEMENT
Between the
XX AGENCY
And the
XX AGENCY**

This cost share agreement is between the agencies identified above, as negotiated for the following incident in accordance with the Statewide Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement # _____ executed between the parties on (date). The purpose of this agreement is to provide for a coordinated cooperative fire suppression operation on this fire and to describe the cost division.

General Fire Information:

Incident Name:

Incident Start Date and Time:

Origin: Township Range Section

Estimated Size: Acres at the time of this agreement:

Incident Cause:

Incident Numbers by Protection Agency:

Agency	Incident #	Accounting Code

Agreement Period: This agreement becomes effective on the date indicated below and will remain in effect until amended or terminated.

State date/time:

End date/time:

Principal Contacts:

The following personnel are the principal contacts:

Title:	Name:	Agency:
Agency Administrator		
Agency Representative		
Agency Administrator		
Agency Representative		
Incident Business Advisor(s)		
Incident Commander(s)		
Other IMT members as appropriate		

**APPENDIX J
SAMPLE COST SHARE AGREEMENT**

Special Management Operational Conditions:

Document all decisions pertaining to special management considerations above the standard agreed upon, (i.e., cultural site preservation, fireline rehab, etc.).

Protection Responsibility:

1. Does the fire area or any mitigation actions taken affect more than 1 area of protection responsibility?
Yes _____ No _____

IF YES, use the following matrix to identify all agencies that:

- have responsibility for wildland fire protection, structure protection and structure fire suppression.
- have areas of overlapping responsibility.

Entity & Protection Area Description	Wildland Fire Responsibility (Y or N)	Structure Protection Responsibility (Y or N)	Structure Suppression Responsibility (Y or N)
Federal Agency <i>Area Description:</i>			
State <i>Area Description:</i>			
County <i>Area Description:</i>			
Local Government <i>Area Description:</i>			

Definitions for Wildland Fire Protection, Structure Protection, and Structure Fire Suppression are contained in the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group Agency Administrators Memo of 5/28/08, entitled, "Community and Structure Protection Guidelines". <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/index.html>

Structure Protection and Structure Suppression Details:

1. Were any structures threatened? Yes ___ No ___
2. Were structure protection actions conducted:
 - a. within the active fire area? Yes__ No__
 - b. outside the active fire area? Yes__ No__

**APPENDIX J
SAMPLE COST SHARE AGREEMENT**

IF YES to any of the above questions, use the following matrix to:

- document actions that were taken in regard to structure fire protection and structure fire suppression
- identify who has responsibility for those actions
- identify the locations of the actions taken.

Location and total number of structures at that location	Within active fire area? (Y or N)	Agency(s) Responsible for Structure Protection	Agency(s) Responsibility for Structure Suppression	Number of structures threatened at that location

3. Describe the actions and financial responsibilities within the active fire area taken by each agency

4. Describe the actions and financial responsibilities outside the active fire area taken by each agency.

Other conditions relative to this agreement:

1. Costs incurred by cooperators not engaged with the host agency or IMT in the fire suppression activities will not be included as a part of this cost share agreement.
2. Responsibility for tort claim costs will not be a part of this agreement. Responsibility for these costs will be determined outside this agreement.
3. Costs for accountable, sensitive, and durable property purchased by each agency will be charged directly to that agency and will not be shared.
4. Non-suppression rehabilitation costs are the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency and will not be shared.
5. Suppression strategies and their related costs, including use of aircraft and retardant, will be documented and approved by the signatories to this agreement.
6. Per the XX Cooperative Fire Agreement billing procedures, the parties to this agreement will determine the total costs of each agency. Each agency will bill for their costs.

Cost Share Methodology:

Describe the chosen cost share method for this fire and the details that explain the apportionment. **A map must be included that shows fire area with the methodology applied to that map.**

APPENDIX J
SAMPLE COST SHARE AGREEMENT

Final Agency Apportionment:

1. Federal Share:
 - a. USFS - _____%
 - b. BLM - _____%
 - c. FWS - _____%
 - d. NPS - _____%
 - e. BIA - _____%

2. State Share :
 - a. MT - _____%
 - b. ID - _____%
 - c. ND - _____%
 - d. Other - _____%

Signatures of Authorized Personnel & Attachments:

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

List and include appropriate attachments (such as I-Suite reports, Aircraft Use Reports, map, etc.):

Original Agreement: _____ (#1)
Supplemental Agreement: Number _____ Supercedes Agreement # _____ Dated _____

Agency Name:
Address
City, State Zip

Signature: _____ Date: _____
 XXNAME, Title

Agency Name:
Address
City, State Zip

Signature: _____ Date: _____
 XXNAME, Title

APPENDIX K
EMFZ MILES CITY DIVISION- AGENCY RESOURCE LISTING

Resource Identifier	Resource Type	Dispatch Location	Unit Name	Agency
BIA - Northern Cheyenne Agency				
E-1	T-6 Engine	Lame Deer	Northern Cheyenne Agency	BIA
E-2	T-6 Engine	Lame Deer	Northern Cheyenne Agency	BIA
E-3	T-6 Engine	Lame Deer	Northern Cheyenne Agency	BIA
E-4	T-6 Engine	Lame Deer	Northern Cheyenne Agency	BIA
E-5	T-4 Engine	Lame Deer	Northern Cheyenne Agency	BIA
E-6	T-4 Engine	Lame Deer	Northern Cheyenne Agency	BIA
E-7	T-4 Engine	Lame Deer	Northern Cheyenne Agency	BIA
DZ1	T-3 Dozer	Lame Deer	Northern Cheyenne Agency	BIA
DZ2	T-2 Dozer	Lame Deer	Northern Cheyenne Agency	BIA
Road Grader	T-3 Road Grader	Lame Deer	Northern Cheyenne Agency	BIA
NCA Helitack*	T-3 Helicopter	Crow Agency	Northern Cheyenne Agency	BIA
BIA - Fort Peck Agency				
FP-1	T-6 Engine	Poplar	Fort Peck Agency	BIA
FP-2	T-6 Engine	Poplar	Fort Peck Agency	BIA
FP-5	T-4 Engine	Poplar	Fort Peck Agency	BIA
BLM Eastern Montana/Dakotas District				
E-2408	T-4 Engine	Miles City Fire Station	Miles City Field Office	BLM
E-2409	T-4 Engine	Miles City Fire Station	Miles City Field Office	BLM
E-2601	T-6 Engine	Jordan Fire Station	Miles City Field Office	BLM
E-2602	T-6 Engine	Jordan Fire Station	Miles City Field Office	BLM
E-2603	T-6 Engine	Camp Crook Fire Station	Miles City Field Office	BLM
E-2604	T-6 Engine	Ekalaka Fire Station	Miles City Field Office	BLM
E-2605	T-6 Engine	Fort Howes Fire Station	Miles City Field Office	BLM
E-2606	T-6 Engine	Fort Howes Fire Station	Miles City Field Office	BLM
E-2607	T-6 Engine	Fort Howes Fire Station	Miles City Field Office	BLM
E-2910	Water Tender	Miles City Fire Station	Miles City Field Office	BLM
	T-3 Helicopter	Miles City Air Base	Miles City Field Office	BLM
BLM Fuels Module	Initial Attack Module	Belle Fourche	South Dakota Field Office	BLM
	2 SEATs			
USFS Custer Gallatin National Forest				
E-631	T-6 Engine	Sioux Ranger District	Custer National Forest	FS
E-641	T-6 Engine	Ashland Ranger District	Custer National Forest	FS
USFWS Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge				
1 Eng J-1	T-6 Engine	Jordan CMR	Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge	FWS
1 Eng J-4	T-4 Engine	Jordan CMR	Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge	FWS
Montana DNRC Eastern Land Office				
E-1663**	T-6 Engine	Miles City	Eastern Land Office MT DNRC	DNRC
E-1664**	T-6 Engine	Miles City	Eastern Land Office MT DNRC	DNRC

APPENDIX K
EMFZ MILES CITY DIVISION- AGENCY RESOURCE LISTING

South Dakota State Division of Wildland Fire (SDWF)				
	T-6 Engine	Lead, SD	SDWFS Lead Field Office	SDS
E-462	T-6 Engine	Lead, SD	SDWFS Lead Field Office	SDS
E-433	T-3 Engine	Lead, SD	SDWFS Lead Field Office	SDS
E-667	T-6 Engine	Rapid City, SD	SDWFS Rapid City Field Office	SDS
E-668	T-6 Engine	Rapid City, SD	SDWFS Rapid City Field Office	SDS
E-669	T-6 Engine	Rapid City, SD	SDWFS Rapid City Field Office	SDS
E-660	T-6 Engine	Rapid City, SD	SDWFS Rapid City Field Office	SDS
E-648	T-4 Engine	Rapid City, SD	SDWFS Rapid City Field Office	SDS
E-267	T-6 Engine	Custer State Park, SD	SDWFS Custer State Park Field Office	SDS
	T-6 Engine	Hot Springs, SD	SDWFS Hot Springs Field Office	SDS
E-562	T-6 Engine	Hot Springs, SD	SDWFS Hot Springs Field Office	SDS
E-546	T-4 Engine	Hot Springs, SD	SDWFS Hot Springs Field Office	SDS
	T-4 Engine	Hot Springs, SD	SDWFS Hot Springs Field Office	SDS
Crew 600	T-2 Crew	Rapid City, SD	Black Hat Crew Base, Rapid City	SDS
Crew 400	T-2 Crew	Rapid City, SD	Bear Mtn Crew Base, Rapid City	SDS
State Dozer	T-3 Dozer	Rapid City, SD	SDWFS Rapid City Field Office	SDS
State Transport 3SD & 0SD	Transport for Dozer King Air 90	Rapid City, SD Rapid City, SD	SDWFS Rapid City Field Office SDWFS South Dakota State Office	SDS SDS

*Northern Cheyenne supports 1 position on the Crow Agency Helitack crew and have the support of the helicopter and crew for fires on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

**Equipment can be staffed upon request.

The Southern and Northeastern Land Offices of the Montana DNRC have engines available to support fire suppression efforts in the Miles City Division of the East Zone. Orders will come through Miles City Dispatch and on to Billings Dispatch for the Southern Land Office requests and Lewistown Dispatch for the Northeastern Land Office requests.

The counties have numerous engines for structure and wildland fire. DNRC has several engines and water tenders stationed at various fire departments throughout the counties for the County Cooperative Fire Program.

The Montana DNRC Eastern Land Office has available a Field Kitchen for dispatch. Orders will come through the Miles City Interagency Dispatch. It is capable of supporting a maximum of 300 people on extended attack fires for up to 3 days and 150 people for longer durations.

State of South Dakota has agreements with Harding County Fire Departments for Initial Attack. Lead Field Office resources are dispatched first to EMFZ requests. All SDWFS units are stashed in ROSS through Northern Great Plains Interagency Dispatch (GPC) in Rapid City.

**APPENDIX L
EMFZ MILES CITY DIVISION CONTACT LISTING**

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Bureau of Land Management		
Diane Friez	Eastern Montana/Dakotas District – District Manager	406/233-2827
Todd Yeager	Miles City Field Office – Field Office Manager	406/233-2892
Rick Rymerson	North Dakota Field Office – Field Office Manager	701/227-7700
Marian Atkins	South Dakota Field Office – Field Office Manager	605/892-7001
United States Forest Service		
Mary C. Erickson	Custer Gallatin National Forest –Forest Supervisor	406/587-6949
Walt Allen	Ashland Ranger District – District Ranger	406/784-2344
Kurt Hansen	Sioux Ranger District – District Ranger	605/797-4432
Bureau of Indian Affairs		
Michael Addy	BIA Northern Cheyenne Agency – Superintendent	406/477-8242
Howard Bemmer	BIA Fort Peck Agency – Superintendent	406/768-5312
United States Fish & Wildlife Service		
Matt DeRosier	Charles M. Russell NWR – Project Leader, Acting	406/538-8706
Michelle Chappell	Medicine Lake NWR – Refuge Manager	406/789-2305
State of South Dakota – Division of Wildland Fire		
Jay Esperance	Division Director	605/393-8011
State of Montana - Department of Natural Resources & Conservation		
Chris Pileski	Eastern Land Office – Area Manager	406/232-2034
Matt Wolcott	Southern Land Office – Area Manager	406/247-4400
Clive Rooney	Northeastern Land Office – Area Manager	406/538-7789
Montana Fire Wardens Association		
Rod Dresbach	Montana Fire Wardens Association –President	

**APPENDIX L
EMFZ MILES CITY DIVISION CONTACT LISTING**

COUNTY FIRE WARDENS

DNRC – Eastern Land Office			
Carter	Neil Kettelmann	406/775-8743 406/975-8744 (C)	ccso@midrivers.com
Custer	Bud Peterson	406/874-3510 406/951-3942 (C)	custerfire@midrivers.com
Dawson	Tim Mort	406/365-2177 406/989-1015 (C)	mortdist@mcn.net
Fallon	Tom Muckle	406/778-3346 406/891-0458 (C)	muckle@midrivers.com
Garfield	Ray Hageman	406/557-2263 406/977-9705 (C)	hagemanjvf@midrivers.com
McCone	Jess Berry	406/485-3326 406/939-3318 (C)	jaberry@midrivers.com
Powder River	Joey Cathy	406/436-2599 406/853-4009 (C)	broadusfire@rangeweb.net
Prairie	Duncan Hedges	406/635-5738 208-993-0805 (C)	sheriff@prairie.mt.gov
Richland	Larry Christianson	406/488-4400 406/ 489-4629 (C)	trictysal@midrivers.com
Rosebud	Rodney Dresbach	406/346-4270 406/253-0208 (C)	rdresbach@rosebudcounty.com
Wibaux	Brian Nelson	406/796-6543 701/218-0267 (C)	firechief@midrivers.com
DNRC – Northeastern Land Office			
Daniels	Don Hammar	406/487-2865 406/783-7005 (C)	sledge@nemont.net
Roosevelt	Steve Harada	406/765-5476 406/868-1178 (C)	SHarada@fpcc.edu
Sheridan	Curtis Petrik	406/765-2970 406/765-8525 (C)	cpetrik@co.sheridan.mt.us
Valley	Dan Carney	406/228-2476 406/263-7301 (C)	longrun@nemont.net
DNRC – Southern Land Office			
Big Horn	Matt Redden	406/665-9860 406/679-0516 (C)	mredde@co.bighorn.mt.us
Treasure	Bill Willems	406/342-5665 406/690-3873 (C)	landbwillems@yahoo.com