

Exhibit Number: 6

**The following exhibit is a
portion of the booklet
“Department of Natural Resources
and Conservation Fiscal Year 2004” -
Forestry Division**

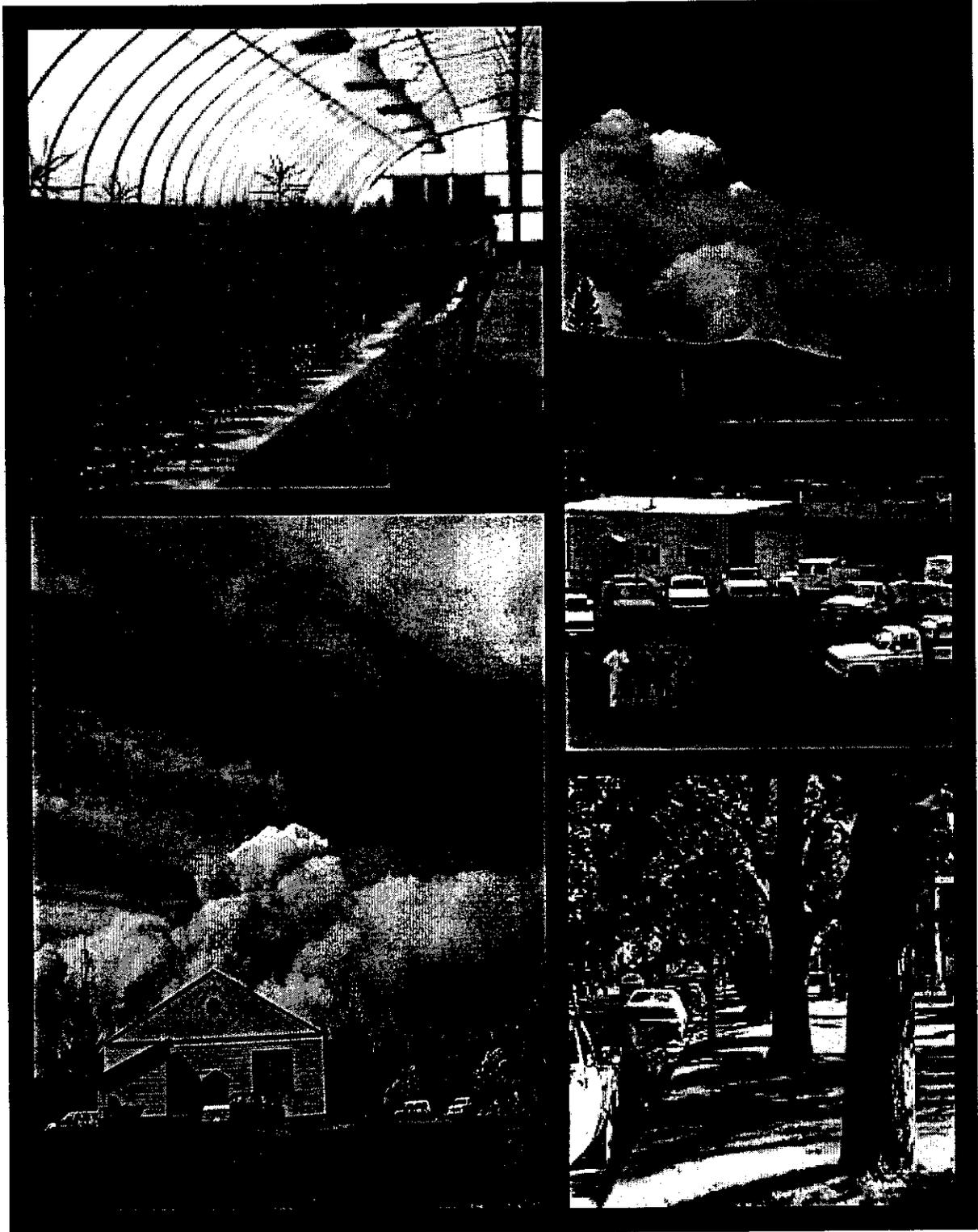
**this exceeds the 10-page limit
therefore it cannot be scanned.**

**The booklets’ section:
“Forestry Division” is Exhibit 6
has 8 pages scanned to help you
when researching information.**

**The exhibit is on file at the
Montana Historical Society and
can be viewed there.**

EXHIBIT 6
DATE 01/17/05
HB 2

FORESTRY DIVISION



(LEFT) DAN BUSHNELL
(RIGHT) D. C. HAAS

(RIGHT) TODD KLEMMANN

(LEFT) D. C. HAAS
(RIGHT) KELLEY GUNDALE

FORESTRY DIVISION

Protecting Montana's natural resources from wildland fires through regulation and partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies, and helping Montanans achieve forestland stewardship and compliance with state forestry laws.

The Forestry Division, headquartered in Missoula, is responsible for planning and implementing forestry programs through a network of field offices located across the state. The forestry program has two major functions: fire and aviation management, and service forestry. Each function is further broken down into programs and subprograms, most with statewide application. The Forestry Division has the following goals.

- Protecting the state's natural resources from wildfire, insect pests, and disease
- Sustaining or improving the natural resources of private forestland for the good of all Montanans
- Promoting and supporting conservation practices on all lands in Montana
- Enforcing the state's forest practices laws in a manner that is both fair and consistent to all parties, and that meets the intent of the legislation
- Encouraging the maintenance, planting, and management of trees and shrubs in Montana communities

Fire and Aviation Management

As charged by state law, DNRC protects the natural resources of the state from fire and is responsible for ensuring fire protection on all forestlands within this state that are officially classified by the department as forestlands.

Protection

DNRC's Fire and Aviation Management Program is a team of trained professionals providing wildland fire service leadership to Montana, commissioned by Montana citizens to protect the natural resources of the state by preventing and suppressing wildland fires, and accountable to Montana citizens. Presently, all wildlands in Montana have some form of fire protection. DNRC protects natural resources on state and private lands through aggressive fire prevention and protection activities. A total of 50,497,550 acres of state-owned and private lands are protected as detailed in state resource management plans, or as required by law (see Table 12). The Fire and Aviation Program staffs 65 engine (and water tender) companies and 6 helicopters to provide direct protection of 5.2 million acres. The program also loans over 350 engines and water tenders to local fire agencies, primarily in the eastern part of the state. DNRC has been given the responsibility to coordinate all contract responses of fire department resources that cross county lines.

Direct Protection

DNRC provides direct protection to a total of 5,152,315 acres consisting of 3,481,884 acres of state and private land; 694,665 acres of U. S. Bureau of Land

Management (BLM) lands; 4,551 acres of Tribal/U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) lands; 18,117 acres of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) lands; 2,776 acres of U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) lands; and 950,322 acres of U. S. Forest Service (USFS) lands. Privately owned forested lands within the boundaries of an incorporated city are included. Priority is given to the protection of forested lands owned by the state.

State/County Cooperative Fire Protection

Under the State/County Cooperative Fire Protection Program, the department has secondary protection responsibility for 45,309,480 acres of state-owned and privately owned non-forested lands. These lands are predominantly found in eastern Montana. A network of 400 fire departments provides initial response to wild-fires in the 56 counties. DNRC assists on fires that escape the counties' capabilities and provides them with training, prevention materials, and equipment.

Contracted Federal Protection

Fire protection of a total of 1,706,186 acres of state and private lands is subcontracted to federal agencies.

**Table 12
Fire Protection by DNRC in FY 2004**

Total Acres	Category	State and Private Lands (Acres)	Public Lands (Acres)
5,152,315	DNRC Direct Protection State and Private Lands BLM Lands USFS Lands Tribal/BIA Lands BOR Lands FWS Lands	3,481,884	694,665 950,322 4,551 2,776 18,117
45,309,480	State/County Cooperative Fire Protection ¹	45,309,480	
1,706,186	Federal Direct Protection ² Protected by BIA (Tribal) Protected by BLM Protected by USFS Protected by FWS	145,817 68,823 1,454,676 36,870	
52,167,981	TOTALS	50,497,550	1,670,431

1. Includes all 56 counties in Montana
2. Subcontracted to federal agencies

Fire Prevention

The Fire Prevention Program's purpose is to reduce the number and severity of wildfires occurring each year. The program is made up of three parts.

- Engineering through prescribed fire (and airshed management), fuel treatment programs, and application of DNRC's wildland/residential development guidelines
- Education through homeowner programs (like Firewise Communities), workshops, and production of printed and electronic material
- Enforcement through Forest Fire Regulations, fire cause investigation, and forest restrictions when applicable

Fuel reduction in wildland/residential interface areas continues to be emphasized through National Fire Plan funding. Ongoing projects include fuel treatment, home fire safety evaluations, community education and awareness, and prioritizing communities at risk.

DNRC has completed its fire risk rating on 95 percent of the direct protection areas that are determined to be high risk. Several hundred plats of proposed developments are evaluated annually, and recommendations are then submitted to county commissioners based on DNRC's Fire Protection Guidelines. The Fire Protection Guidelines for Wildland/Residential Interface Development continue to be applied to existing and proposed developments throughout the state.

Major issues in FY 2004 include implementation and monitoring of programs funded by the National Fire Plan, implementation of a revised forest restriction process, and promotion of ongoing educational programs.

Fire Suppression

Through the Fire Suppression Program, DNRC directly protects 5,152,315 acres of state, private, and federal lands; assists all 56 cooperating counties with fires exceeding their capabilities on 45,309,480 acres of state and private lands; and subcontracts fire protection on 1,706,186 acres of state and private lands to the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (Tribal). DNRC also provides support and assistance to federal fire agencies and other states when appropriate.

The number of fires that occurred during the 2003 fire season was above the five-year average; 567 fire incidents that burned a total of 175,706 acres were reported (see Figures 9 and 10). The average number of fires over the last five years is 446 per year, and the average number of acres burned over each of the last five years is 95,159. The annual acreage burned varied from 16,758 acres in 2001 to 175,706 acres in 2003.

Figure 9
Number of Fires on State-Protected Land

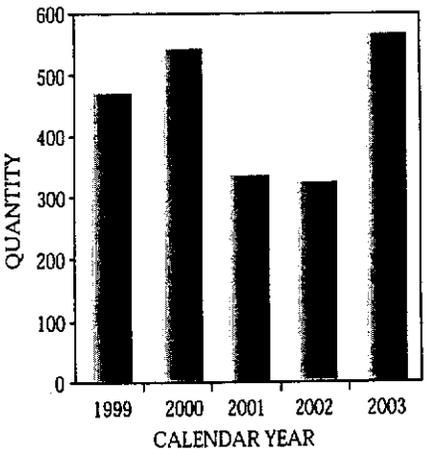


Figure 10
Acres Burned on State-Protected Land

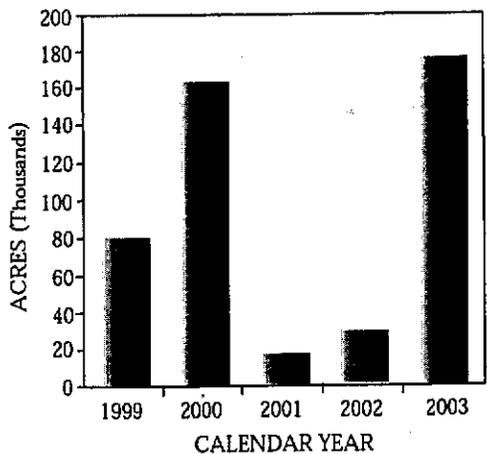
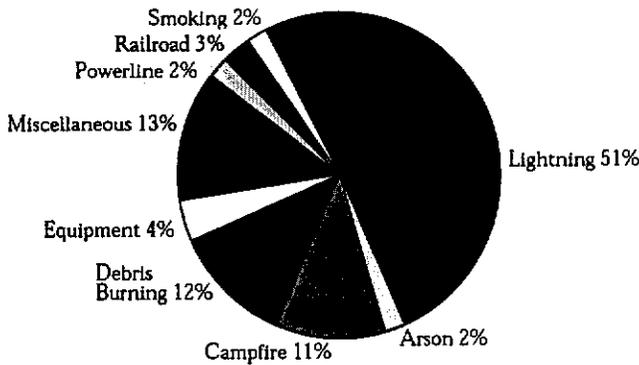


Figure 11
Percentage of Fires, by Cause
(5-Year Average)



Lightning is the single most frequent cause, starting 51 percent of the fires (see Figure 11). DNRC contained an average of 96 percent of the direct protection fires at under 10 acres in size in 2003. The charts are based on direct protection and county assist fires.

Fire Training

The Fire and Aviation Management Bureau provides training in fire prevention, detection, investigation, suppression, aviation, communications, safety, prescribed fire, participation on incident management teams, and wildland fire training instruction.

DNRC participates in several levels of fire training. Sixty employees attended upper level fire management/suppression courses put on by the Northern Rockies

Training Center for DNRC and local government. In the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group Zones, DNRC coordinated, instructed, and participated in 117 courses for about 2,925 agency and local government participants in FY 2004. Through the State/County Cooperative Fire Protection Program, DNRC also sponsored 83 Suppression Skill, Incident Command System, and Standards for Survival courses for 1,372 people and 42 Basic and Intermediate Wildland Firefighting courses for 801 volunteer and career firefighters in 56 counties.

To defray the costs of training local government forces, the Montana Firewarden Association received a Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant that DNRC helps administer. DNRC also received a grant from the Department of Homeland Security through the Disaster and Emergency Services Division to provide training in Incident Command Systems and Hazardous Material/Weapons of Mass Destruction to any DNRC employee who works in the field and could come across something of a suspicious nature.

To meet the needs for firefighters in the 2003 fire season, DNRC trained National Guard aviation and support personnel.

DNRC maintains the qualifications of and certifies several hundred DNRC and local government firefighters utilizing the Incident Qualification System. DNRC is on the development team for the Incident Qualification System, which is funded by the National Association of State Foresters. This system is used by the vast majority of states to track qualifications and certifications.

DNRC is actively involved (in cooperation with other wildland fire agencies) in the development of overhead and management personnel within the agency and in local government, providing training opportunities at the Northern Rockies Interagency Training Center, National Fire Academy, and National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute.

Development and Support

Through its Equipment Development Program, DNRC obtains federal excess property and develops it into fire suppression equipment and vehicles. This equipment

is used primarily to support the State/County Cooperative Fire Protection Program. In FY 2004, DNRC obtained supplies, vehicles, and aircraft that have a total value of \$2,103,969 through the Federal Excess Property Program. The equipment acquired included a total of 33 vehicles and aircraft.

The 97 individual development projects that were completed in FY 2004 are listed in Table 13.

Aviation

The Aviation Section operates and maintains a fleet of nine aircraft. The fleet consists of six helicopters and three fixed-wing airplanes. The three fixed-wing aircraft, Cessna 180 series that are used primarily for fire patrol and personnel transportation, are located in Helena, Missoula, and Kalispell. The section operates four Bell UH-1 series type 2 helicopters at Helena, Missoula, and Kalispell in support of DNRC's initial attack fire suppression program. Two light, type 3 helicopters (Bell 206 B-III) are stationed in Helena. One is owned by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). DNRC maintains this aircraft and provides pilot services to DEQ. In return, DNRC reserves the right to use this aircraft for fire missions. The second light helicopter is used as a backup aircraft or for additional coverage.

In FY 2004, the aircraft flew a total of 1,574 hours. Other program statistics are shown in Table 14 below.

Develop Type 6 (400-gallon) wildland engines	2
Develop Type 6 (300-gallon) wildland engines	5
Develop Type 6 (200-gallon) wildland engines	7
Develop Type 5 (500-gallon) engines	2
Develop Type 4 (800-gallon) engines	2
Develop (1,000-gallon) water tender	1
Construct flatbeds	19
Rebuild pump panels	29
Rebuild pump heads	30

Water/retardant dropped	959,636 gallons
Fire administration	42 hours
Fire detection/reconnaissance	769 hours
Fire — other	10 hours
Fire suppression — initial attack and extended attack	569 hours
Fire suppression — project ¹	1 hour
Fire training	50 hours
Non-fire missions	127 hours
False alarm	6 hours
TOTAL	1,574 hours

1. Project fires are large fires with organized fire management teams.

National Fire Plan

After the 2000 wildfire season, Congress authorized funding within the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Agriculture to implement the National Fire Plan (NFP). The National Fire Plan is a long-term strategy for reducing the effects of catastrophic wildfires throughout the nation. There are five key points to the National Fire Plan.

- Increase in fire suppression capabilities (firefighting)
- Rehabilitation of burned areas and restoration of landscapes
- Reduction of hazardous fuels
- Assistance to communities
- Accountability to the public and to Congress

The Western Governors' Association has developed a *10-Year Comprehensive Strategy* and an implementation plan entitled *A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment*. These documents provide direction at the national, regional, state, and local levels on National Fire Plan issues.

NFP funding to the states occurs under the community assistance point and is made available through the USFS state and private forestry programs. DNRC has responsibility for delivery of these programs on state-owned and private lands in Montana.

The DNRC NFP Program is implemented primarily within the Forestry Division's Fire and Aviation Management Bureau and Service Forestry Bureau. The National Fire Plan is delivered, wherever appropriate, through existing state and private forestry programs. These programs are:

- County Cooperative Fire Program (Fire and Aviation Management Bureau)
- State Fire Assistance Program (Fire and Aviation Management Bureau)
- Private Forestry Assistance Program (Service Forestry Bureau)
- Stewardship Program (Service Forestry Bureau)

The NFP accomplishments for these programs are included in this section. For more information about those programs, or to learn about accomplishments separate from the National Fire Plan, refer to the sections of this report called Fire and Aviation Management and Service Forestry Programs.

Volunteer and Rural Fire Assistance

The Volunteer and Rural Fire Assistance (VFA/RFA) Program provides assistance to county fire agencies for equipment, training, and fire prevention materials. Funding for the program comes from USFS and from the following U.S. Department of the Interior agencies: FWS, BLM, BIA, and the National Park Service.

Local fire organizations apply for funding by submitting requests to their respective county leaders, who prioritize proposals and submit a packet of requests to DNRC. Projects are funded based on recommendations from an interagency selection committee with members from the funding agencies. The Fire and Aviation Management Bureau is responsible for administration of agreements for all approved projects in the state.