

Wednesday – January 21, 2009
Senate Bills on Fire Suppression Committee Recommendations

Senator Kelly Gehardt, Chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee and members of the committee.

I am a private contractor, and president of J&M Logging Inc. I have my C.A.N.R and equipment inspector certifications. I also donated my time and equipment to last year's equipment boss training class north of Helena on the Sieben Ranch.

We as a company have been playing the fire game since 2000 and have learned a lot. We have also helped a lot of agency people (DNRC and USFS) get more familiarized with the equipment, what and when it can be used. We have seen so much waste do to lack of equipment bosses and over head. Some of the issues I think could be helped with this class.

In the summer with smoke in the air and a so called endless Type 1 check book, it is not the time or place to be training people that are in charge of my equipment and employees on the incident. As much as 40% of our time on a fire is spent on the lowboy or explaining to overhead what a piece of mechanized equipment can do. If we send an untrained or inexperienced person to the line we get a bad evaluation and get sent home.

I have seen over head that knows nothing about a piece of mechanized equipment, and waste taxpayer dollars learning how to use it.

There are also some incidents where equipment properly managed could reduce the aviation cost, improve safety and productivity. We are gypo loggers and professional by surviving on being resourceful and are able to adapt to most situations as they come along in our business.

THANK YOU

/s/ Jonathan Sheets
Jonathan Sheets