

2009 Fire Suppression Committee Legislation - Final Status

A. Homeowners

| | Recommendation | Bill Draft | Bill Draft # | Include in Legislative Budget Analysis | Include in House Bill 2 |
|----|--|------------|--------------|--|-------------------------|
| 1. | Amend the state fire policy statute (76-13-115) to make it clear that homeowners have responsibility for protecting their homes from wildland fires. | X | LC0479 | | |

Final
Status

Died

B. Wildland-Urban Interface: Land Use Planning, Insurance, Building Standards

| | Recommendation | Bill Draft | Bill Draft # | Include in Legislative Budget Analysis | Include in House Bill 2 |
|---|--|------------|--------------|--|-------------------------|
| 1. | Local agencies and state agencies should study and consider moving toward the Australian concept of evacuations and protection of properties within regions of Montana. | | | | |
| <p><u>Staff Comment:</u> In Australia, residents in fire safe homes who do not choose to evacuate early are encouraged to stay and shelter in place as the fire front moves over the home. See Appendix E.</p> | | | | | |
| 2. | Create and fund pilot project for fuels reduction on state land in the wildland-urban interface -- use private contractors who then can be shifted to fire suppression when needed. | X | LC0477 | X | X |
| <p><u>Staff Comment:</u> An appropriation of \$3 million in HB 2 would be needed to implement the program.</p> | | | | | |
| 3. | Require insurance providers to offer discounts for insureds who maintain their homes and property to certain standards within a designated WUI. | X | LC0476 | | |
| <p><u>Staff Comment:</u> The standards under development in the rulemaking required to be completed by DNRC and DLI under 76-3-104(8) and 50-60-901, respectively, could be the standards for which incentives must be offered under this proposal.</p> | | | | | |
| 4. | Give the State Auditor the authority to review all property insurance policies to make sure that insurance companies have in place an ongoing education, training, or premium incentives aimed at protection of homeowners' properties from wildland fires. This may include educational material, home inspections, or discounts for proper hazard mitigation and fire protection activities. | X | LC0475 | | |
| 5. | Require insurance companies to notify their insureds of the best practices developed during DNRC rulemaking pursuant to 76-13-104(8) and encourage their implementation. | X | LC0474 | | |

Ch. 289

Died

Died

Died

| | Recommendation | Bill Draft | Bill Draft # | Include in Legislative Budget Analysis | Include in House Bill 2 |
|---|--|-------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| <p><u>Staff Comment:</u> Use of best management practices for timber sales and logging are the inspiration for this proposal. Section 76-13-101(2) states: "To achieve the conservation of natural and watershed resources, the legislature encourages the use of best management practices in timber sale planning, associated road construction and reconstruction, timber harvesting, site preparation, and related activities and establishes a process to ensure that information on best management practices is provided to owners and operators engaged in forest practices on private land."</p> | | | | | |
| 6. | Send a letter to insurance providers authorized to operate in Montana that FSC encouraging them to educate homeowners who live in the WUI how to properly maintain their property to minimize wildland fire risks. | | | | |
| 7. | <p>Create a Montana Fire Management Easement Program to create an incentive-based voluntary way for landowners who take a series of defined actions to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire and to be compensated for taking those actions.</p> <p>To comply, a landowner must live within a wildland-urban interface area described or identified through a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. To qualify for the program, the landowner must:</p> <p>(a) agree to limit further residential development on the property to a maximum of one additional residence;</p> <p>(b) agree to work with a land trust and a professional forester or designated local fire official to site any new residence based on conservation values and fire protection priorities;</p> <p>(c) participate in a Montana Extension Forestry Forest Stewardship Workshop or work with a professional forester to create a Forest Stewardship Plan for the property;</p> <p>(d) comply with defensible space standards spelled out in the DNRC "Fire Protection Guidelines for Wildland Residential Interface Development";</p> <p>(e) build any new structures using firewise construction materials as adopted by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry. Structures must comply with Uniform Building Codes and Uniform Fire Codes.</p> <p>The enforcement of these construction/residential measures would be initially addressed by DNRC, the Montana Department of Labor and Industry and local fire officials. Land trusts would be responsible for annual monitoring and enforcement duties.</p> | X | LC0473 | X | X |

Died

| | Recommendation | Bill Draft | Bill Draft # | Include in Legislative Budget Analysis | Include in House Bill 2 |
|--|---|------------|--------------|--|-------------------------|
| | A qualifying landowner would be eligible to receive an income tax credit. | | | | |
| <u>Staff Comment:</u> There may be a need for FTE at DNRC and DLI to provide the enforcement and inspection. Local fire entities may also need funding to assist with these duties. | | | | | |
| 8. | Require the Department of Labor and Industry to develop building standards for houses built within the WUI. DLI would have the inspection authority. | X | LC0472 | X | Died |
| <u>Staff Comment:</u> (1) The rules being developed under 50-60-901 will provide a list of items for local governments to consider during subdivision review when determining whether wildfire hazards in a proposed subdivision can be overcome by construction techniques. (2) This proposal would also need to identify which entity would be responsible for delineating the WUI and require that delineation so everyone knows where this law is effective. The committee may want to consider the proposal applying to "high fire hazard areas" rather than the WUI, however, some entity will still need to be responsible for identifying those areas. (3) The committee may want to consider requiring modification and adoption of the International Urban Wildland Interface Code by DLI. This was among the original proposals considered by the WUI subcommittee. | | | | | |
| 9. | Require definition of the WUI on a statewide level so that it is clear to all communities what constitutes a threat. | X | LC0480 | | Ch. 397 |
| 10. | Change the state fire policy statute (76-13-115) to make it clear that homeowners have responsibility for their own home protection from wildland fires. | X | LC0479 | | Died |
| 11. | Send a letter to the state fire units and local fire units that urges them to make clear to homeowners and landowners what their capabilities are to fight fires and the types of fires they will attempt to suppress. | | | | |
| 12. | Allow local regulation/enforcement of mitigation measures in the WUI. (a) Authorize a local government to regulate and enforce fire mitigation measures such as vegetation management, use of fire resistant building materials. (b) It would be discretionary for local governments. | X | LC0478 | | Died |

| | Recommendation | Bill Draft | Bill Draft # | Include in Legislative Budget Analysis | Include in House Bill 2 |
|--|---|-------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| | <p>(c) If a local government chooses to implement this authority, it would be required to designate the area where these regulations would be in effect.</p> <p>(d) There would be no protest provision, but an appeals process and possible variance opportunity.</p> <p>(e) Incentives may encourage local governments to "opt in".</p> | | | | |
| <u>Staff Comment:</u> Standards required could be those implemented in rule under 76-13-104(8) and under 50-60-901 and 50-60-902, pursuant to SB 51(2007). | | | | | |
| 13. | <p>Grant funding for local prevention and mitigation programs.</p> <p>Appropriate money to DNRC from the general fund to use for a grant program. Local governments could apply for funding programs to:</p> <p>(a) help planning offices delineate the WUI;</p> <p>(b) target WUI homeowners with mitigation efforts;</p> <p>(c) establish and maintain prevention programs.</p> | X | LC0482 | X | X |
| <u>Staff Comment:</u> The Western Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program, administered by DNRC, uses State Fire Assistance funding provided by the federal government as part of the National Fire Plan to assist people and communities in mitigating wildfire risk in the WUI. This proposal would use state funds for similar purposes. | | | | | |
| 14. | <p>Authorize local governments to form a taxing jurisdiction to pay for fuel reduction projects and tax either through sales or property tax to protect their homes. Authorize local governments to use the revenue from an existing sales tax or any new local option tax for fuel reduction projects around communities.</p> | X | LC0481 | | |
| 15. | <p>DNRC should provide regular updates of the list of communities at risk for wildfire (available on FSC's website at http://leg.mt.gov/fire) and identification of the top 10 highest-risk communities.</p> | | | | |
| 16. | <p>DNRC should institute a Montana Firewise month in June, during which special programs and educational events directed at property owners in the WUI would occur.</p> | | | | |

Died

Ch. 38

C. Funding for Fire Protection, Suppression, Fuel Treatment

| | Recommendation | Bill Draft | Bill Draft # | Include in Legislative Budget Analysis | Include in House Bill 2 | |
|--|--|-------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------|
| 1. | The Appropriations and Finance and Claims committees should review this report, public comments made to FSC about DNRC's fire suppression program, and how the agency has responded to those comments as it reviews DNRC's budget. | | | | | |
| 2. | State agencies that own or manage land should develop management plans for properties at risk of wildland fire. | | | X | | |
| 3. | Increase the statutorily-appropriated funding for emergencies and provide that the increase be used only for wildland fire; provide for ongoing fund transfers to the fire suppression account; remove the termination date for the fire suppression account; allow a certain amount in the account to be used for: (a) additional county co-op equipment; (b) fuels mitigation grant programs; (c) rural fire assistance matching grants for counties. | X | LC0503 | X | X | Died |
| 4. | Increase the statutorily-appropriated funding for emergencies and provide that the increase be used only for wildland fire; extend the termination date for the fire suppression account and the statutory appropriation of that account. | X | LC0504 | X | X | Died |
| 5. | Collection of fire protection funds should be made simpler and the collection problems associated with condominiums should be fixed. | X | LC0483 | X | | Ch.173 |
| 6. | Remove the requirement in 76-13-207 that the total amount of assessments received by DNRC from landowners not exceed one-third of the amount specified in the appropriation for fire protection costs. | X | LC0502 | X | X | Died |
| <u>Staff Comment:</u> Revenue generated from assessments would continue to rise with increased parceling of forest land. | | | | | | |
| 7. | Create separate line item in HB 2 for the county co-op program, which should equal one-third of DNRC's fire program. | | | | X | |
| <u>Staff Comment:</u> Based on FY 10-11, that would be about \$800,000. | | | | | | |
| 8. | Fund acquisition of 25 more engines each year for the next 2 years of the biennium. | | | X | X | |

| | Recommendation | Bill Draft | Bill Draft # | Include in Legislative Budget Analysis | Include in House Bill 2 |
|-----|---|-------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 9. | Allow tribal fire departments to participate in county co-op program. | X | LC0484 | X | X |
| 10. | The Legislative Fiscal Analyst assigned to DNRC should provide the Finance Committee with regular updates on cost sharing agreements. | | | | |

Died

D. Federal Forest and Wildfire Policy; State/Federal/Local Relations

| | Recommendation | Bill Draft | Bill Draft # | Include in Legislative Budget Analysis | Include in House Bill 2 | |
|--|---|-------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------|
| 1. | Allow DNRC, under certain circumstances pertaining to public health and safety, to engage in initial attack on all lands, regardless of jurisdiction, if a fire threatens to move onto state or private land. | X | LC0485 | | | Ch.172 |
| <u>Staff Comment:</u> DNRC does have an agreement with federal agencies that allow for IA under certain circumstances. | | | | | | |
| 2. | Require DNRC to establish NEPA coordinating agency status [76-13-702(5)]. | X | LC0486 | X | X | Ch.58 |
| 3. | Appropriate \$200,000 to DNRC for the agency to establish NEPA cooperating and coordinating agency status. | X | LC0487 | X | | Died |
| 4. | Resolution in support of the following NACo draft resolution (which was not adopted by NACo): "Adopted policy: The National Association of Counties calls on Congress to enact legislation granting a Governor authority to declare a crisis when the severity of fire danger from fuels on identified federal lands within that state pose a significant threat to public health and safety, or there would be a probable loss of homes and property if wildfires occur. Upon the declaration of a crisis, responsible federal agencies would fast-track a mitigation plan to reduce forest fuels. The mitigation planning would be excluded under the NEPA appeal process. Any claimant filing a court action against the plan would be required to post a damage bond of ten (10) percent of the value of the property that would be protected under the mitigation plan." | X | LC0488 | | | Passed |
| 5. | Amend provisions of 76-13-701 and 76-13-702(7) to allow the state to intervene on any fuel loading conditions that it considers to be a significant threat to public health and safety. | X | LC0489 | | | Ch.115 |
| 6. | Amend the provisions of 77-5-216 to increase the percentage DNRC may exceed sustained yield on trust lands for forest health concerns from 5% to 10%. | X | LC0490 | | | Ch.116 |
| 7. | An appropriate legislative committee should be notified when a transfer of land from a federal agency to the state occurs that will result in more direct protection acreage for DNRC. | | | | | |
| 8. | An amount of \$200,000 should be set aside as a line item in the Department of Justice's major litigation budget in HB 2 for the state to participate in certain lawsuits brought against federal agencies for forest management. | | | X | X | |

| | Recommendation | Bill Draft | Bill Draft # | Include in Legislative Budget Analysis | Include in House Bill 2 |
|--|---|-------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| <p><u>Staff Comment:</u> SB 293 (2007), sponsored by Sen. Laible, gave DNRC the authority to intervene in litigation or appeals on federal forest management projects that comply with forest management policy and in which local and state interests are clearly involved. This is codified in section 76-13-702.</p> | | | | | |
| 9. | <p>Joint legislative resolution to be forwarded to Montana's congressional delegation that the legislature intends federal fire policy be modified so that:</p> <p>(a) there is safe and aggressive initial attack on all federal lands where there is a potential for the fire to move to state or private land;</p> <p>(b) there be active engagement of the state, local government, and landowners in land and fire management operations;</p> <p>(c) the federal government be responsible for costs and resource losses for large fires for which no direct suppression action was taken or where the federal government shifts control actions onto state or private land; and</p> <p>(d) Forest road closures should be limited if closure restricts access for wildfire suppression.</p> | X | LC0491 | | |
| 10. | <p>Prior to June 30, 2009, DNRC should develop an internal cost review process to ensure adequate review and concurrence on strategy and tactics for wildland fires for which the Wildland Fire Situation Analyses (WFSAs) alternatives indicate potential expenditures of over \$1 million.</p> | | | | |
| <p><u>Staff Comment:</u> According to the USFS website (http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/wfsa/wildland_situation%20analysis.htm), a WFSAs "is required when the documentation of suppression decisions needs to occur – because one the following conditions have taken place: *Wildland fire escapes initial actions or is expected to exceed initial action. *A wildland fire being managed for resource benefits exceeds prescription parameters in the fire management plan. *A prescribed fire exceeds its prescription and is declared a wildland fire." "The purpose for completing a WFSAs is to convey to an Incident Management Team (IMT) the critical objectives and priorities as defined by an Agency Administrator for a given incident."</p> | | | | | |
| 11. | <p>The federal fire agencies and Montana's congressional delegation should review and comment on the information provided to the committee by members of the public and comments made by committee members regarding federal management of wildland fire and federal lands.</p> | | | | |
| 12. | <p>The federal fire agencies should meet with local and state fire agencies and entities of local and</p> | | | | |

Passed

| | Recommendation | Bill Draft | Bill Draft # | Include in Legislative Budget Analysis | Include in House Bill 2 |
|--|---|-------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| | state government every spring and fall to discuss fire prevention, protection of homes and private property, land and wildfire management, cost sharing, and compensation to private entities and local fire and emergency response agencies. If federal agencies do not initiate the meetings, the local and state agencies and other entities should do so. | | | | |

E. Local Government; Volunteer Firefighters

| | Recommendation | Bill Draft | Bill Draft # | Include in Legislative Budget Analysis | Include in House Bill 2 | |
|---|--|------------|--------------|--|-------------------------|------|
| 1. | Provide for special license plates and tax credits for volunteer firefighters. | X | LC0492 | | | Died |
| <p><u>Staff Comment:</u> The Montana State Council of Professional Firefighters and the Montana State Fire Chiefs' Association have license plate designs under the Generic Specialty License Plate act.</p> | | | | | | |
| 2. | Provide tax incentives for volunteer firefighters and their employers | X | LC0493 | | | Died |
| 3. | Create grant program for volunteer fire departments. | X | LC0494 | | | Died |
| 4. | Allow leave for state employee volunteer firefighters for incident response. | X | LC0495 | | | Died |
| 5. | Allow a local government, through enforcement of a community decay ordinance, to engage in fuels treatment on land within the physical boundaries of the local government's jurisdiction but not under the local government's ownership. | X | LC0496 | | | Died |
| <p><u>Staff Comment:</u> (1) A June 11, 1993, letter by Attorney General Joe Mazurek specifically addresses county commission authority to regulate land use upon federal or state lands (Appendix F).</p> <p>(2) Community decay is defined in 7-5-2110 and a local government's authority to control community decay is provided in 7-5-2111.</p> | | | | | | |
| 6. | Allow volunteer firefighters to participate in county government health insurance pool provided there is no fiscal impact to the county. | X | LC0497 | | | Died |
| <p><u>Staff Comment:</u> A bill draft to implement the above proposal would likely amend section 2-18-701 to include volunteer firefighters in the definition of "employee". The definition applies only to Title 2, chapter 18, part 7 -- Group Insurance Generally.</p> | | | | | | |

F. Wood Products Infrastructure³

| | Recommendation | Bill Draft | Bill Draft # | Include in Legislative Budget Analysis | Include in House Bill 2 | |
|---|---|-------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|---------|
| 1. | Provide for a phased-in biomass tax credit, similar to Oregon's law, ORS Chapter 315.141 (Oregon Department of Revenue summary: Appendix G). | X | LC0498 | | | Died |
| <u>Staff Comment:</u> The credit would go to the suppliers of biomass, not the purchasers (mills) of the biomass. The mills would receive the supply. | | | | | | |
| 2. | Amend 69-3-2003, definitions for the Montana Renewable Power Production and Rural Economic Development Act, to allow for a biomass generation facility with more total calculated nameplate capacity than is currently allowed. | X | LC0499 | | | Died |
| <u>Staff Comment:</u> Section 69-3-2003(3) and (12) limit the megawatts in total calculated nameplate capacity and the location of the production facility. A biomass generation facility would use biomass collected from fuels reduction projects. | | | | | | |
| 3. | Revise license and registration fees for logging trucks so that they are the same as those for trucks used for agricultural purposes (61-10-206). | X | LC0505 | | | Died |
| 4. | Expand exemption on fuel tax for agricultural use to include logging trucks and other logging equipment. | X | LC0506 | | | Died |
| 5. | Allow oral (open) bidding on DNRC timber sales. | X | LC0507 | | | Died |
| 6. | Develop forest management plan for Fish, Wildlife and Parks land that includes mitigating beetle kill, wildland fire risk, and impacts to wildlife habitat. | X | LC0508 | | | Ch. 330 |
| 7. | FSC encourages more utilization of non-saw log material--such as pulp logs and other residue--made available through state timber sales. | | | | | |

³Items #3 through #12 in Section F originated in "Montana Wood Products Industry Initiative: Recommendations for Action, September 11, 2008", prepared by the Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation. The Fire Suppression Committee reviewed the document and adopted ten of the 17 Recommendations for Immediate Action.

The FSC has recommended (p. 10) that the 2009 legislative leadership appoint a select committee or a subcommittee of a standing committee to meet during the session and review legislative options for preserving and maintaining the state's ailing wood products industry. If creation of this committee or subcommittee appears likely, items #3 through #12 may not be introduced.

| | Recommendation | Bill Draft | Bill Draft # | Include in Legislative Budget Analysis | Include in House Bill 2 | |
|-----|--|-------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|------|
| 8. | Reduce business equipment tax on equipment used to transport, process, and harvest forest products; consider temporary property tax exemption for existing forest products facilities. | X | LC0509 | | | Died |
| 9. | Index DNRC timber sales to the market. | X | LC0510 | | | Died |
| 10. | The workers compensation process for the forest products industry should be reviewed to find ways to reduce costs and adopt an apportionment system for workers with prior injuries who file claims and evaluate rates compared to other states. | | | | | |
| 11. | State revolving loan fund program to supplements private sources of financing that timber harvesters and wood processors could use to obtain working capital needed to maintain and modernize existing operations. | X | LC0511 | | | Died |
| 12. | The Forest Service should develop pilot projects for resource recovery that include multi-year timber sales, thinning projects, and removal of dead and dying timber. | | | | | |

G. Contracting

| | Recommendation | Bill Draft | Bill Draft # | Include in Legislative Budget Analysis | Include in House Bill 2 |
|--|---|-------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Recommend generally that the private contracting community and state, local, federal, and tribal fire suppression agencies maintain open communications and coordinate activities. | | | | |
| 2. | Recommend generally that the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group work with representatives from the private contracting community to increase the over-all efficiency of the equipment inspection process. | | | | |
| <p><u>Staff Comment:</u> The subcommittee heard testimony that the state and federal fire suppression agencies will eliminate unnecessary inspections and that those agencies have pledged to increase the efficiency of the inspection process for future fire seasons.</p> | | | | | |
| 3. | Recommend that the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group work with representatives from the private contracting community where possible to conduct joint training sessions. | | | | |
| 4. | <p>Recommend that Department of Labor coordinate with the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group to ensure that private contractors working on the fire lines are complying with the workers' compensation laws.</p> <p>Recommend that the State Fund and private insurance companies work with the fire suppression contracting community to ensure reasonable workers' compensation insurance rates.</p> <p>Recommend that the FSC write a letter to the Department of Labor and Industry and the State Fund requesting those agencies' involvement in solving these workers' compensation issues.</p> | | | | |
| 5. | Recommend FSC support for the current Northern Rockies Coordinating Group dispatch system that utilizes the closest resource concept that involves local governments, state, federal and private contracting resources that is most cost effective and efficient for the taxpayers and local communities. | | | | |
| 6. | Recommend that the fire suppression contracting community form at most, one or two associations (including the aviation contractors) to represent private contractors across the state and to provide one voice before the legislature and state and federal fire suppression agencies. | | | | |
| 7. | Recommend that the Montana Legislature and the federal fire suppression agencies increase the number of incident business advisors that are deployed on fires throughout Montana in order to improve the efficiency of deploying private contractors and tracking costs. | | | | |

| | Recommendation | Bill Draft | Bill Draft # | Include in Legislative Budget Analysis | Include in House Bill 2 |
|-----|--|-------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 8. | Recommend FSC support for the best value contracting process. | | | | |
| 9. | Recommend that the FSC send a letter to the Legislative Audit Committee requesting a performance audit of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's Aviation Program, including an evaluation of the need for additional helicopter managers. | | | | |
| 10. | DNRC should relay to the contracting section of the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group the concerns that contractors have expressed to the FSC. | | | | |

H. Miscellaneous Recommendations

| | Recommendation | Bill Draft | Bill Draft # | Include in Legislative Budget Analysis | Include in House Bill 2 | |
|----|---|-------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|------|
| 1. | Extend time limit on an emergency related to wildfire | X | LC0011 | | | Died |
| 2. | Request that the Montana Department of Transportation mow and maintain highway rights-of-way under its jurisdiction to minimize wildfire starts from vehicles. | | | | | |
| 3. | Require training on mechanized fire suppression and fuels reduction equipment at Fire Services Training School (Title 20, chapter 31). | X | LC0501 | | | Died |
| 4. | Continue Fire Suppression Committee through the 2009-2010 interim, with a general fund appropriation of \$50,000, to follow up on recommendations contained in this report. | X | LC0500 | X | | Died |

I. DNRC Budget Recommendations Provided by the Agency (in order of priority)

| Priority # and Title | FTE | Annual Cost | One Time Only (OTO) Cost | Description | Projected Annual Savings or Benefits | Assumptions |
|--|------|-------------|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Extend engine crews to 7-day coverage | 7.0 | \$ 260,000 | 0 | Add or extend seasonal positions on DNRC engines to achieve 7 day full coverage. Operations funds (\$50,000) are included for equipment and fuel. | \$3.0 M | Prevent two 1000+ acre wildfires per year. |
| <p><u>Staff Comment:</u> The committee requested that the above item be approved by the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP) for implementation during the 2008 fire season (Appendix D). The approval was provided by OBPP and these positions were created as modified for the 2008 fire season. The executive approved this item for submission into the budget process.</p> | | | | | | |
| 2. Extend aviation crews to 7 day coverage | 6.79 | \$ 469,246 | 0 | Staff all helicopters with manager, crew, and fuel truck driver. Operations and capital of \$63,000 | \$3.0 M | Prevent two 1000+ acre wildfires per year. |
| <p><u>Staff Comment:</u> The committee requested that the above item be approved by the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP) for implementation during the 2008 fire season (Appendix D). The approval was provided by OBPP and these positions were created as modified for the 2008 fire season. The executive approved this item for submission into the budget process.</p> | | | | | | |
| 3. County Rural Fire Coordinators | 2.0 | \$187,000 | 0 | Add a Rural Fire Specialist at the Northeastern and Southern Land Offices. Includes \$50,000 in capital and \$20,000 in operations. | Fire safety and improved coordination | |
| 4. Fire Business Specialists | 4.0 | \$300,000 | 0 | Two additional fire business staff for the Fire and Aviation Management Bureau and four half-time positions in field offices. Includes \$10k operations each. | \$750,000 in prevented expenditures. | Increased fiscal oversight during and after fire season operations, to work as incident business advisors and audit fire bills at fire season end. |
| <p><u>Staff Comment:</u> The committee requested that the above item be approved by the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP) for implementation during the 2008 fire season (Appendix D). The item was not approved by OBPP.</p> | | | | | | |
| 5. Operations Section Supervisor | 1.0 | \$95,000 | 0 | Operations Section Supervisor to assist Fire and Aviation Management Bureau Chief. Includes \$20k | Firefighter safety and | |

| Priority # and Title | FTE | Annual Cost | One Time Only (OTO) Cost | Description | Projected Annual Savings or Benefits | Assumptions |
|--|------|-------------|--------------------------|--|---|--|
| | | | | capital and \$10k operations. | coordination of DNRC fire program. | |
| <p><u>Staff Comment:</u> The committee requested that the above item be approved by the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP) for implementation during the 2008 fire season (Appendix D). The item was not approved by OBPP. However, through the re-direction of currently approved FTE, the position was filled in July of this year.</p> | | | | | | |
| 6. Fire Safety Specialist | 1.0 | \$85,000 | 0 | Safety and investigation specialist for the Fire and Aviation Management Bureau. Includes \$20k capital and \$10k operation. | Firefighter safety | Increased focus on fire line and aviation safety and investigations. |
| <p><u>Staff Comment:</u> The above item was an action item resulting from a 2007 DNRC aviation safety investigation.</p> | | | | | | |
| 7. Dispatch Center Staff | 4.25 | \$160,000 | 0 | Augment existing and add additional dispatch positions at all land offices. | Firefighter safety and equity with federal agencies | Increased representation in interagency dispatch centers to assure distribution of firefighting resources to state and local government fires. |
| <p><u>Staff Comment:</u> The committee requested that the above item be approved by the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP) for implementation during the 2008 fire season (Appendix D). The item was not approved by OBPP.</p> | | | | | | |
| 8. County Engines | 0 | 0 | \$1,000,000 | One-time additional development of 20 new county co-op engines to augment the Equipment Development Center's annual development of 15 engines. | \$500,000 | Prevent one 5,000+ acre fire in eastern Montana each year. Increased safety by removing old equipment from the field. |

| Priority # and Title | FTE | Annual Cost | One Time Only (OTO) Cost | Description | Projected Annual Savings or Benefits | Assumptions |
|--|-----|-------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| 9. Fuels Mitigation Fund | 0 | 0 | \$1,000,000 | Cost-share assistance to private landowners within the WUI to reduce fuels around home sites consistent with priorities in Community Wildfire Protection Plans. Estimated treatment of 1500 home sites. | \$500,000 | Prevent one 500 acre fire and one home from loss due to wildfire. Reduced extreme fire behavior, losses and cost from fire on treated private lands. |
| 10. Aircraft Hangars | 0 | 0 | \$700,000 | Construct aircraft hangars in Kalispell and Missoula for DNRC aircraft. (Long Range Planning request) | \$700,000 | Security from weather and vandalism and adequate maintenance facility in the field. |
| <u>Staff Comment:</u> The above item is a Long Range Planning request. | | | | | | |
| 11. Communication System Support | 2.0 | \$280,000 | 0 | Two communication technicians to provide service to the current system. Includes purchase of vehicles, training, and operating costs. | Firefighter safety | Increase management of existing radio network to improve system reliability. |
| 12. Type 3 Incident Management Team Development & Support | 0 | \$300,000 | 0 | Provide support via training, equipment and vehicles. | \$500,000 | Prevent one Type 2 IMT deployment per year. Improved success in extended attack, reduced costs and losses. |

| Priority # and Title | FTE | Annual Cost | One Time Only (OTO) Cost | Description | Projected Annual Savings or Benefits | Assumptions |
|---|------|-------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| 13. Eastside Capital and Mobile Kitchen | 0 | \$115,000 | 0 | Increase in one additional truck purchase per year for eastside land offices and provide support of state mobile kitchens. | \$250,000 | Prevent one national caterer mobilization per year. Ensure readiness of state mobile kitchens. |
| 14. Federal Excess Property Acquisition Staff | 1.0 | \$135,000 | 0 | One person to screen federal excess property as well as Department of Defense for parts and equipment. | \$100,000 | Cost savings from five federal excess vehicle vs. purchase of new vehicles. Increase capacity for state and local programs through excess equipment procurement. |
| 15. Twenty Person Type 2 Initial Attack Crew | 10.0 | \$680,000 | 0 | Development of a Type 2 team for DNRC use. Includes vehicles, equipment and training costs. | \$1.5 M | Prevent one 1500 acre fire by enhanced initial attack effectiveness and saving on contract or severity costs. |
| 16. Additional helicopter and crew | 4.0 | \$112,000 | \$325,000 | Funding to develop a MT 205 helicopter, hire seasonal pilot and support crew. | \$750,000 | Prevent one 1500 acre fire per year by increased initial attack effectiveness. |

J. DNRC Budget Recommendations Provided through Public Comment (not prioritized)

| Recommendation # and Title | FTE | Annual Cost | One Time Only (OTO) Cost | Description | Projected Annual Savings or Benefits | Assumptions |
|---|-----|-------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| 1. Continued Support of Volunteer Fire and Rural Fire Assistance Grants | 0 | 0 | 0 | Pass through grants from federal sources. | Increased resources | Provides support for training and equipment to rural fire and volunteer fire departments. |
| <p><u>Staff Comment:</u> The above item is currently funded with federal dollars only. Should the legislature wish to expand the program by adding a state appropriation, the fiscal impact would be that amount.</p> | | | | | | |
| 2. Helicopter for eastern Montana based in Miles City | 4.0 | \$112,200 | \$325,000 | Funding to develop a MT 205 helicopter and hire seasonal pilot and support crew for stationing in Miles City. | \$500,000 | Prevent one 5000 acre fire by enhanced initial attack effectiveness. |
| 3. Additional staff in Northeastern and Eastern Land Offices | 2.0 | \$210,000 | \$60,000 | Funding to support two additional FTE for increased local support for fire prevention activities and training. OTO funding for vehicles for FTE. | Improved local coordination. | Increased state presence to aid in coordination of local resources with state and federal resources. |
| 4. Eastern Montana Training Coordinator | 1.0 | \$105,000 | \$30,000 | Funding to provide a training coordinator for eastern Montana. OTO funding for vehicle. | Improved local coordination, firefighter safety. | Local training for local fire personnel |