


DNRC WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION COSTS: FY1996-2005

• 96	\$ 1.2 million
• 97	\$ 6.2 million
• 98	\$ 1.1 million
• 99	\$ 9.5 million
• 00	\$ 5.2 million
• 01	\$ 59.1 million
• 02	\$ 15.9 million
• 03	\$ 3.3 million
• 04	\$ 76.3 million
• 05	\$ 3.6 million
• 06*	\$ 5.6 million



Ave. Annual Total Costs: \$17 million
Ave. Supplemental \$7 million

* estimated

- Legislative Options***
- **Planning/Policy (HJ10)**
 - State Fire Policy
 - Mandatory, but Flexible Planning Regulations
 - Reinforce Community Wildfire Planning
 - **Effective Initial Attack**
 - Funding for State and Local Govt. Resources
 - **Fuel Reduction**
 - Incentives for Home and Landowners (Cost share)
 - Support Active Forest Management on all ownerships

Wildland Urban Interface Fires

- Firefighter & Public Safety is Priority
- Tactics:
 - Defensive vs. Offensive
- Resources:
 - Type 1 & 2 engines
 - Type 1 Crews
 - Aviation
- Amount of Resources



Wildland Urban Interface Fire



- Increased Complexity:
 - Life Safety
 - Multiple jurisdictions
 - Evacuations
 - Utilities & other infrastructure
 - Other: pets, media, politics, & special needs
- Increased Expectations

Wildland Urban Interface Fire

- Increased Costs:
 - Costs to all agencies
 - Estimates of 2-10X more for WUI fires
- Loss of Property:
 - 635 structures destroyed in Montana in 2000-2003.
- Loss of other resources while protecting structures.



Fire Mitigation Options

- **Information & Education:**

- Consultants, DNRC
Foresters, Firewise, Fire
Departments, etc.

- **Operations:**

- Contractors, Builders,
Property Owners

- **Funding:**

- NFP Grants, Commercial
Harvests, Owners funds



The National Fire Plan in Montana



- \$7.2 MM granted since
FY 2002
- 2,416 homes directly
impacted by treatments.
- 8,745 acres planned to be
treated.
- \$800 per acre average
cost.