

**DRAFT State Fire Policy**  
**Proposed by HJR 10 Work Group**  
**January 2006**

NEW SECTION. Section 2. State fire policy. [**\*\*TO BE  
CODIFIED IN TITLE 76\*\***]

The legislature finds and declares that:

- (1) The safety of the public and of firefighters is paramount in all wildfire suppression activities.
- (2) It is a priority to minimize property and resource loss resulting from wildfire and to minimize expense to Montana taxpayers, which is generally accomplished through an aggressive and rapid initial attack effort.
- (3) Interagency cooperation and coordination among local, state, and federal agencies is intended and encouraged.
- (4) Fire prevention, hazard reduction, and loss mitigation are fundamental components of the state's wildfire policy.
- (5) Appropriate funding of a base level of fire protection must be provided for each governmental fire agency.
- (6) All property in Montana must have wildfire protection from a recognized fire protection entity.
- (7) All private property owners and federal and state public land management agencies have a responsibility to manage resources, mitigate fire hazards, and otherwise prevent fires on their property.
- (8) Sound forest management activities to reduce fire risk--such as thinning, prescribed burning, and insect and disease treatments--improve the overall diversity and vigor of forested landscapes and improve the condition of related water, wildlife, recreation, and aesthetic resources.