

**Fire Suppression Committee  
Proposed Schedule and Work Plan**

**\*\*APPROVED 11/26/07\*\***

November 2007

The Fire Suppression Committee (FSC) will be divided into two subcommittees: A Wildland-Urban Interface subcommittee and an Infrastructure subcommittee.

**Wildland-Urban Interface**

During January and February, the WUI subcommittee will receive background information on current laws and local regulations with regard to development in the WUI, programs available to communities, previous legislative attempts to address development in the WUI, and how other states have dealt with this subject. Options will be considered and presented to the full committee for approval as items on which to seek comment at the field hearings.

**Infrastructure**

The Infrastructure subcommittee will explore DNRC operations funding, suppression funding, the state's financial relationship with federal agencies as well as operational relationships with tribal and federal resources. Options will be developed and reviewed for potential consideration by the full committee and for the purpose of seeking public input at field hearings.

Two members of this subcommittee will be assigned to work with the contracting community and to hold a formal public hearing on the contracting process in early March. Those members will bring their recommendations for action to the full committee.

**PROPOSED WORK SCHEDULE**

**November 26, 2007**

FSC meeting, Helena

- Wildfire 101 from DNRC, Forest Service, BLM, BIA; tours of aviation, dispatch, mitigation project
- Optional attendance at DNRC season review Nov. 27 (p.m.)

**December 2007**

A letter will be drafted and sent to the contracting community soliciting suggestions for improving the contracting process. A separate letter will be sent to any other interested individuals and organizations soliciting written comments and specific suggestions for legislative action. The deadline for submission of written comments will be Feb. 1.

**January 11, 2008**

Subcommittees meet, Helena

- Background information on WUI and on funding/infrastructure
- Public comment

**February 15, 2008**

Subcommittees meet, Helena

- Explore options for committee action
- Public comment

**March 4, 2008**

- Contractor hearing (with Rep. Keane, Sen. Hansen)

**March 27-28, 2008**

Subcommittees and FSC meet, Helena

- March 27
  - ▶ Subcommittees meet in the afternoon to finalize options to recommend to full committee
  - ▶ Public comment
- March 28
  - ▶ Full committee to determine options to present at field hearings
  - ▶ Public comment

**April 28-29, 2008**

FSC meets in **Hamilton**

- April 28
  - ▶ Staff, committee presentation of options (a.m.)
  - ▶ Public hearing (p.m.)
- April 29
  - ▶ Tours

**May 16, 2008**

FSC meets in **Lewistown**

- Afternoon public hearing

**May 30, 2008**

FSC meets in **Miles City**

- 29th a travel day
- 30th public hearing, tours?

**June 19-20, 2008**

FSC meets in **Seeley Lake, Thompson Falls, Libby**

- June 19
  - ▶ Seeley Lake public hearing, tour (a.m.)
  - ▶ Leave for Thompson Falls by 2:00 (2 hrs. 46 min. drive time)
  - ▶ Thompson Falls public hearing (evening)
  
- June 20
  - ▶ Travel to Libby (a.m.)
  - ▶ Public hearing, tours

**July-August, 2008**

- FSC members travel to fires, individually and as group

**September 12, 2008**

- Final meeting, final recommendations
- Public comment on final recommendations