

Montana State/County Cooperative Fire Control Program

COOP Survey 2014

The wildland fire service faces many significant changes since the inception of the State/County Cooperative Fire Control Program (COOP) in fuels, weather changes, WUI interface complexities, costs associated with wildland fire, fire jurisdiction challenges in meeting staffing and recruitment, political support, and other factors. DNRC is attempting to position itself to remain a good partner into the future and has initiated an extensive internal review of the program. DNRC has its perception of what is working well, what could work better, and what future challenges we are likely to face together over the next five plus years. We are asking your opinion and experience to learn how you and your organization view the COOP program and where you believe the strengths, areas for improvement, and ultimately (given likely challenges to DNRC's ability to sustain its service levels) where you and your organization would like to see the State/County COOP program direction take in the next five plus years. We think we see where many challenges will be, particularly from our experiences. Without your input though, we can't know if our perceptions match or are different from your organization.

Please take a few minutes to share your/your organizations thoughts on the following survey. They're anonymous; we tried to keep them straight forward, and will help us greatly as we look at strategies to carry us into the future.

1. My organization is best described as a:

- a) ___ County Fire Department
- b) ___ Fire District
- c) ___ Fire Department
- d) ___ Fire Service Area
- e) ___ Volunteer Fire Company
- f) ___ County government

2. In your opinion, my organization benefits most from Cooperative Fire Control Agreement (check any that apply):

- a) ___ equipment and supplies
- b) ___ training opportunities
- c) ___ suppression support
- d) ___ planning assistance (Fire Management Plans, Annual Operation Plans, Agreements)
- e) ___ Mobilization of Local Gov't resources and representation in NRCCG
- f) ___ Prevention and restrictions assistance
- g) ___ Other? _____

3. For your fire organization, please rank in order of priority from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important) the aspects that you value the most in your relationship with DNRC:

- a) ____ Prevention
- b) ____ Fire Organization and Planning
- c) ____ Fire Suppression Assistance
- d) ____ Fire Equipment and Supplies-including apparatus
- d) ____ Wildland and Leadership Fire Training

4. In my opinion, our fire organization is growing in numbers and quality of our personnel. Staffing is not an overwhelming issue for us today or for the foreseeable (5 years) future:

- ____ I agree
- ____ I disagree

Comments: _____

5. In my opinion, I am concerned whether my fire organization can meet its commitment or expectations either legally mandated (such as 7-33 MCA) or as per agreement or custom (such as the COOP Program) into the future:

- ____ I believe we may have some challenges and reductions, but yes we likely can
- ____ Yes, it shouldn't be a problem for us if we stay engaged
- ____ No, I don't believe we will be able to sustain our present level of service or expectations with DNRC, MCA's, or the public in our wildland fire arena

Comments or Examples: _____

6. In my opinion, communications between my fire organization and the State of Montana, DNRC is effective with my fire organization:

- ____ yes
- ____ no

If you answered no, what method would improve these communications?

7. What challenges to your fire organization do you see in the future in the wildland fire arena and that may have an effect on your relationship to DNRC and the rest of the wildland fire system?

8. When suppression assistance is requested of DNRC, one of the tools fire managers are required to utilize are the Fully Committed Guidelines. Are you familiar with and understand the Fully Committed Guidelines utilized by DNRC in determining the kind and level of assistance granted?

- a) yes, I am very familiar with the concepts utilized
- b) I've heard about it, but not sure what it says or means to my County or organization
- c) Huh?

Please take a minute to give us your understanding of what the Fully Committed Guidelines means to your organization:

At this year's Montana County Firewarden's Conference April 17, 18, 19th, 2015 in Bozeman will be held not only a number of excellent presentations and training opportunities, but will also include a panel discussion including the Montana State Forester and the Chief, DNRC Fire & Aviation Management. This survey will help lead that discussion and discussions throughout the conference culminating Sunday. Please make an effort to attend the conference and participate. Please return this survey to us by:

-come to the conference and give to us at the front reception desk;

-mail this in with your registration;

-if you are not able to attend the conference, please drop this in the mail to:

Doug Williams
Rural Fire Program Manager
Fire & Aviation Management Bureau/ DNRC
PO Box 1204
Fort Benton, MT. 59442

We appreciate your help. Thank you!

2015 Wildfire Leadership Conference

Montana County
Fire Warden's
Association



mtfirewardens.org

April 17-19, 2015 — Bozeman Holiday Inn

Registration Open at <http://conf.mtfirewardens.org>



Montana Fire Warden's Association Wildfire Leadership Conference

April 17-19, 2015—Bozeman Holiday Inn

Friday, April 17, 2015

- 9:00 am Situation Analyst Montana Training Session 1 @ Library
- 1:00 pm Situation Analyst Montana Training Session 2 @ Library
- 1:00 pm Wildland Fire Committee @ DNRC Office
- Conference Starts at Holiday Inn**
- 3:00 pm Fire Warden 101, Doug Williams—DNRC
- 4:00 pm Fire Restrictions & Home Assessments, Crystal Beckman—DNRC
- 5:00 pm No Host Social

Saturday, April 18, 2015

- 8:00 am Opening, Rick Seidlitz – MCFWA President
- 8:15 am Situation Analyst Montana , Patrick Lonergan – Gallatin County
- 8:45 am Grant Programs Overview
- 9:15 am Wildland Fire Reporting, Bruce Suenram - DNRC
- 9:45 am Break—Snack Provided
- 10:00 am State of the Co-Op Program Discussion, Ted Mead - DNRC & Panel
- 11:30 am Lunch—Meal Provided
- Discussion on Montana All Hazard Activities, MT AHIMT Coordinator
- 1:00 pm Carlton Complex Fire, Scott Miller – Okanogan County
- 1:45 pm Break
- 2:00 pm Continued – Carlton Complex Fire
- 2:45 pm Break—Snack Provided
- 3:00 pm SR530 Slide Incident, Tod Gates – Incident Commander
- 4:30 pm Dinner on your own

Sunday, April 19, 2015

- 7:30 am Yogurt & Fruit Bar
- 8:00 am Landowners & IMTs, Lincoln Chute (Flathead Co) & Fred Thompson (Helena IHC)
- 9:00 am MCFWA Business Meeting

Overview

The Montana County Fire Warden's Association is pleased to offer our 2015 Wildfire Leadership Conference at the Bozeman Holiday Inn. This year we are excited to offer some new speakers to Montana. Scott Miller will be presenting on the 2014 Carlton Complex Fire which burned over 250,000 acres and 300 homes in his county. Tod Gates, IC for the SR530 Slide in Washington, will be talking about the challenges presented in managing this disaster.

Lincoln Chute (Flathead County) and Fred Thompson (Helena IHC) are going to share their experience on developing a joint plan with the residents in the High Range Fire and how they worked together towards a successful operation. Saturday morning Ted Mead (DNRC) will be facilitating an important discussion about the future of the County Co-Op Program in Montana.

This year we have a couple pre-conference activities taking place on Friday. We'll have two sessions on Situation Analyst Montana with the vendor as well as the Wildland Fire Committee will be meeting prior to the conference start on Friday.

More session information available at <http://conf.mtfirewardens.org>.

Registration

Register online at: <http://conf.mtfirewardens.org>

Registration Fee: \$85.00 (includes meals & snacks on agenda)

Conference and Lodging Location:

Bozeman Holiday Inn
5 East Baxter
(Montana, State, University Rooms)
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 587-4561

For help with registration, please contact Linda or Ann at (406) 542-4250.

2015 Wildfire Leadership Conference Registration Form

Register Online at <http://conf.mtfirewardens.org>

or

below by US mail.

First Name:

Last Name:

Agency:

Title:

Address:

Phone:

E-Mail:

Mail Registration Form and Check to:

Montana County Fire Warden's Association

C/O DNRC Fire and Aviation

2705 Spurgin Road

Missoula, MT 59804

Lodging Reservations Made Separately at:

Bozeman Holiday Inn

5 East Baxter

Bozeman, MT 59715

(406) 587-4561

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