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SEP 18 2017

September 14, 2017

Ravalli County Planning Dept.

To: Matt Hall (DNRC), Julie King (USFS), Amy Mohn (Fire Districts and Departments of Ravalli County), Brad Mohn (County Fire Warden)

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is currently seeking approval and signatures from the fire agencies in Ravalli County for the document titled, "Cooperative Fire Management Local Area Operating Plan".

- Painted Rocks supports the Plan's Recital D. "It is the mutual advantage of the Agencies to coordinate efforts on all wildland fire management activities including but not limited to: prevention, education, detection, suppression, training, aviation, unplanned and planned ignitions and fuels management."
- Painted Rocks has never received mutual aid from the DNRC or USFS and does not expect to receive it in the future.
- Painted Rocks does not provide NWCG-qualified resources to anybody but will provide whatever assistance we can, as we are able.
- Historically, participants of past operating plans have varied widely from those plans. There is no reason to believe this will change with the new Plan.
- The best parts of the Plan simply restate policies and guidelines that Painted Rocks has already adopted such as the Incident Command System, Montana State Mutual Aid System (and communications plan), and issues covered by Montana State law.
- The Board of Trustees of the Painted Rocks Fire District has reviewed the document and
 - Finds that most of the Plan does not involve Painted Rocks (such as mutual aid issues...),
 - Disagrees with several key elements of the Plan that could involve Painted Rocks and cause new and unwarranted liabilities to the District's residents and property owners,
 - Notes that some elements are contradictory or untrue.

Painted Rocks cannot find a compelling and beneficial reason to be a party to the Plan. Thus, Painted Rocks Fire District hereby also opts out of the 2013 version of the plan that is titled, "Cooperative Fire Management Operating Plan", known as Agreement #076-FI-11010300-0148.

We will gladly continue to work with our emergency response partners as we have throughout our District's history to protect our community and respond to the best of our ability to requests for help from other agencies.

With the express authority of the Painted Rocks Fire District Board of Trustees,



Alan Tresemer, Chief

cc: Barb Axle, Erik Hoover, Zae Hudson, Dawn Kubat, Connie McArthur, Gary Palmer, Edward Reuter, Glenda Wiles