

SOUTHWEST MONTANA ZONE

EQUIPMENT MOBILIZATION BOARD

**PROCEDURES FOR MOBILIZING AGENCY, LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
AND PRIVATE CONTRACT ENGINES, WATER TENDERS, WATER
TRUCKS, AND SKIDGINES**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this mobilization plan is to:

- Establish procedures to be used in the Southwest Montana Zone to dispatch engines, water tenders, water trucks and skidgines.
- Ensure efficiency and equity when dispatching engines, water trucks and tenders.
- Identify Equipment Mobilization Board key contacts.

EQUIPMENT MOBILIZATION BOARD KEY CONTACTS

Forest Service	Bob Derleth, Superior RD, Lolo NF
Montana DNRC	Colin Moon, Clearwater Unit
Local Government	Mike Doto (Butte/Silver Bow, Anaconda/Deer Lodge, Powell, and Granite Counties) Alternate: Dave Kneebone Scott Waldon (Missoula, Mineral, Sanders Counties)
Flathead Agency, BIA	Bob McCrea
Local Contractors	Cal Alsbury
Dispatch	Sandy Evenson, Missoula Interagency Dispatch Center Nancy Gibson, Bitterroot Dispatch Center
Private Industry	Scott Kuehn, Plum Creek

Note: The Southwest Montana Mobilization Board is represented by two dispatch offices—Missoula Interagency Dispatch Center in Missoula and the Bitterroot Dispatch Center in Hamilton. Each Center will maintain a separate rotation list. Reference the Appendix for resource breakdown by Dispatch Center.

DISPATCH PROCEDURES

This plan will be used for out-of-area/zone dispatches. For initial attack and extended attack (where response time is critical) closest forces will be used. Local agreements and the “neighborhood” policy may override the rotation list for initial and extended attack in the zone.

A rotation list will be established by engine/water tender/water truck type. For 2003, a lottery will be held on May 15 to determine the order in which equipment will be dispatched. The lottery will include equipment signed up on last season's EERAs plus agency resources.

If new equipment is signed up on an EERA following the lottery, that equipment will go to the bottom of the list.

The rotation list will be followed each ensuing year starting from where it was left off the previous year.

The rotation list and current dispatches for resources dispatched by Missoula Interagency Dispatch Center will be listed on a web page: www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/madc. Hamilton Dispatch Center will also maintain their rotation list on a web page.

One piece of equipment can meet different typing standards and may show up on more than one list. If the equipment is dispatched from one list, it will still remain in their current spot on other rotation lists.

The Dispatch Centers will directly contact local contractors and local government to dispatch them.

All engine orders received from other Geographic Areas will be filled with only those engine resources that can provide a fully qualified single resource boss (ENGB). Orders for engines within the Northern Rockies should be filled with qualified engine bosses but will not be a requirement until 2004. The rotation list will indicate which engines have qualified engine bosses. If an engine without a qualified ENGB is at the top of the rotation list and an order comes in for an out-of-area engine boss, the next available engine with a qualified ENGB will be dispatched. The engine without the qualified ENGB will remain at the top of the list. The engine with qualified ENGB will move to the bottom of the rotation list.

If an engine, water tender, or water truck are at the top of the rotation list and are unavailable to meet the dispatch or response timeframes, they will move to the bottom of the list and the next piece of equipment in the rotation list will be contacted. The Geographic Area requirement for confirmation on filling an order is 30 minutes.

If equipment does not meet time of hire inspection, the operator may be given a reasonable amount of time to pass the inspection. As a general rule of thumb, these would be repairs that could be completed within 2 hours.

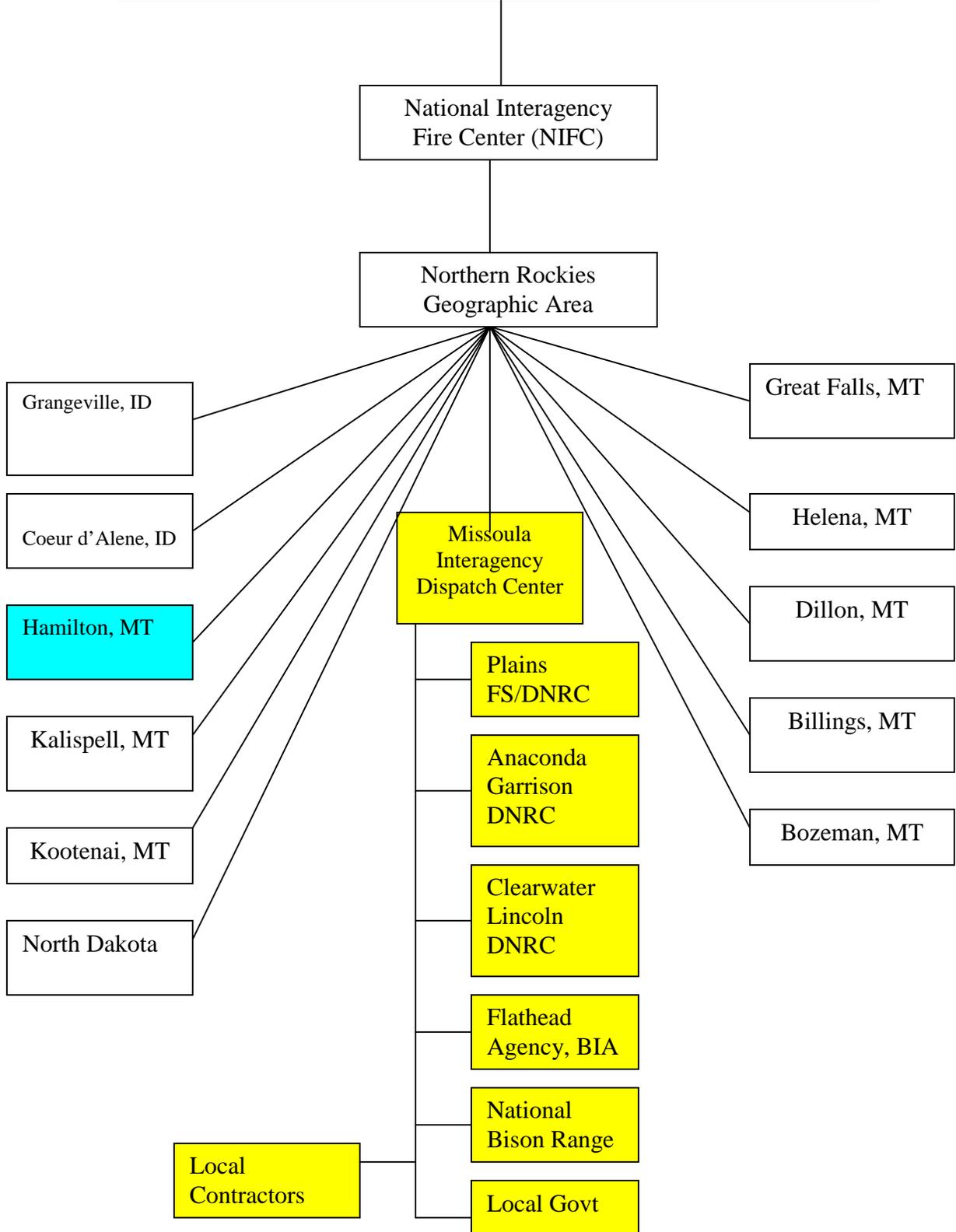
Heavy equipment, such as dozers, lowboys, excavators, will continue to be dispatched by the closest and quickest means possible. This type of equipment will not be part of the rotation list.

Since this is a new concept for water handling equipment for 2003, the process will be monitored for the 2003 fire season. The current Equipment Mobilization Board will reconvene in the fall to re-evaluate the plan and make necessary changes.

Appendix

Geographic Areas

Northwest	Eastern Great Basin	Western Great Basin	Eastern
California	Southwest	Alaska	Southern



Resources dispatched by Missoula Interagency Dispatch Center

Forest Service

- Lolo National Forest (Plains/Thompson Falls, Superior, Ninemile, Missoula, Seeley Lake Ranger Districts)

Montana DNRC

- Southwestern Land Office (Clearwater, Missoula, Clearwater Units)
- Northwestern Land Office (Plains Unit)

Flathead Agency

Fish and Wildlife Service – National Bison Range

Counties – local governments

- Powell
- Missoula
- Silverbow
- Deerlodge
- Mineral
- Sanders
- Granite

Local Area Contractors in all counties represented in the Southwest Montana Zone, except for Ravalli. Contractors in Silverbow and Deerlodge County may wish to be dispatched through Dillon Dispatch Center. However, these contractors can only be dispatched by one Center.

Resources dispatched by Bitterroot Dispatch Center

Forest Service

- Bitterroot National Forest (Stevensville, West Fork, Darby, Sula Ranger Districts)

Counties – local governments

- Ravalli

Local Area Contractors in Ravalli County