

**COOPERATIVE FIRE CONTROL AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
DNRC AND THE COUNTY**

**WHAT IS IT?**

- Authorized under MCA Title 7 – Local Government, Chapter 33 – Fire Protection, where the County has responsibility for wildland fire suppression through:
  - Rural Fire District
  - Volunteer Fire Company
  - Fire Service Area
  - County Fire Department
- Legislature recognizes that the County may not have adequate resources, experience or training to manage large scale or long duration fires.
- County may enter into a Cooperative Fire control Agreement with the state, through DNRC. (All 56 Counties are currently under the County Coop Program)
  - DNRC has statutory authority and duty thru MCA Title 76 – Land Resources and Use, Chapter 13 – Timber Resources, to protect State and private land from wildfire and does so through:
    - Wildland Fire Protection Districts
    - Affidavit lands
    - Non-forest Agreements
    - Protection Offsets
    - County Cooperative Fire Control Agreements
    - Contracts

**HOW DOES THE COOPERATIVE FIRE CONTROL AGREEMENT WORK?**

County may request assistance from DNRC when they:

- Have an incident which threatens to or has exceeded their capacity
- Are utilizing their own resources and other county government resources as necessary (road department, law enforcement, DES, etc.)
- All DNRC equipment on loan is committed to the incident or other initial attack responsibilities
- Have used any mutual aid resources reasonably available
- Have committed to remaining with the incident

DNRC will furnish a Cooperative County with:

- Wildland fire control equipment
- Wildland and related management training at no cost
- Organizational and planning assistance
- Technical advisors upon request
- Air and ground suppression assistance
- Incident management personnel and teams
- Funding when the incident goes beyond the County's capacity to control

The unit/area DNRC office will evaluate the request based on current and forecast weather and fire conditions, the resources available both to the County and DNRC, the level of assistance required, and the level of commitment from the County and its fire forces both to that point and through the incident. If the request is granted then DNRC will be the responsible party for resources brought in and the majority of funds expended to finish that incident. The County must remain fully committed to the incident. Any resources brought in are unified in the command function and fire resources melt together and work side by side to finish the incident

The County Firewarden is the liaison between the Commissioners and DNRC. The County Firewarden can request any level of assistance deemed necessary to their local unit/Area DNRC office. The point is that the County is requesting assistance and aid but retaining ownership of the incident. The request is for DNRC to come in to assist.