

Central Montana Zone Charter

INTRODUCTION

This charter sets forth guidelines and procedures by which the Central Montana Zone Board of Directors (CMZ-BOD) shall operate. The Central Montana Zone Board of Directors is established to provide an interagency approach to wildland fire management and all risk support to the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fort Belknap and Blackfeet Tribes (BIA), Fish and Wildlife Service, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Counties, National Park Service, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and the Bureau of Reclamation.

MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Director membership includes a Chair Representative from each of the Divisions and the Central Montana Zone representative to the NRCG. Commitment is three years. Rotation between the Divisions will occur for the NRCG Representative.

Helena Division – John Huston, Helena Unit Fire Supervisor, DNRC

Dillon Division – Don Coppel, Dillon Unit Fire Supervisor, DNRC

Great Fall Division – Ray Hart, BIA, Blackfeet Agency

CMZ NRCG Rep – Rita Chandler, Asst. Forest Fire Management Officer for Helena NF

Ad Hoc members may be from, but not limited to, the following individuals from participating agencies:

- Agency fire program officers
- County Fire Wardens
- County Emergency Services Officers
- Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinators
- Law Enforcement Officers
- CMT Zone Standing Committee Officials

MISSION

To further interagency cooperation, communications, and coordination, and to provide interagency fire management direction and all risk support for the Central Montana Zone within the Northern Rockies Geographic Area.

The mission is achieved by:

- Operating at a strategic oversight level.
- Encouraging cooperation across jurisdictional and administrative boundaries.
- Providing oversight of fire health and safety issues.
- Providing interagency direction to field units.
- Providing a group response to agency specific requests that have interagency implications.

SCOPE

The zone encompasses the USDA Forest Service for Helena, Beaverhead-Deerlodge and the Lewis & Clark National Forests; Montana DNRC-Central Land Office for Dillon, Conrad and Helena Units as well as the Lincoln Office of the Southwest MT Land Office; USDOJ-Bureau of

Land Management for portions of Butte, Dillon and Lewistown Field Offices; USDOJ-Bureau of Reclamation; USDOJ-Bureau of Indian Affairs for the Rocky Boy, Blackfeet and Fort Belknap tribes; US Fish and Wildlife Services; Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks; areas administrated by National Park Service within the CMZ; portions of Counties within Powell, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Meagher, Madison, Butte Silver Bow, Broadwater, Cascade, Beaverhead, Teton, Pondera, Toole, Glacier and Liberty

The Central Montana Zone organization deals with all wildland fire management related issues and/or opportunities that have interagency implications within the Central Montana Zone.

The CMZ conducts its business at three levels:

- 1) A participating group of agency representatives deals with wildland fire issues that are Central Montana Zone in scope.
- 2) A Board of Directors head the wildland fire coordination and cooperative issues within the zone.
- 3) The three divisions, Helena, Great Falls, and Dillon coordinate within the zone for fire prevention and mitigation, training, Forest, State and County restrictions & closures.
- 4) Each Division had a Restrictions coordinator rather than one for the entire zone. They are identified as the Public Affairs Officers for the three National Forests that are within each division.
 - Great Falls Restrictions Area = David Cunningham
 - Helena Restrictions Area = Amy Teegarden
 - Dillon Restrictions Area = Jack De Golia

See Zone Area map -- Appendix A. This shows where the Central Montana Zone is located within the Northern Rockies Geographic Area

AUTHORITIES

Agreements include, but are not limited to:

- Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (P.L.) 95-313,92
- Stat. 365; 16 U.S.C. 2101(note), 2110-2110,1606,2111)
- Federal Response Plan, Stafford Act
- State Emergency Operations Plans
- Cooperative Fire Management Operating Plans

OFFICERS

Zone Representative: The zone representative will ensure that meeting notices are distributed to Division Chairs, who will then ensure these are distributed to their respective divisions within the Central MT zone. This individual provides the coordination bridge between the Geographic Area NRCG Board of Directors and the zone organization that is in place to manage the business of the zone.

COMMITTEES and DIVISION REPRESENTATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

The CMZ-BOD may establish and support zone committees and work groups as needed composed of participating agency members and associates. Committee members will be appointed based on their availability and established work procedures that define specific issues

to be addressed. All workgroups will keep meeting notes that will be distributed broadly to CMZ-BOD and participating agency members.

1. Provide a forum for the exchange of issues, concerns, opportunities and information that promotes safe and effective CMZ activities incident management operations.
2. Provide strategic and tactical recommendations to CMZ to address issues.
3. Ensure annual updates of the CMZ interagency plans, guidelines, agreements and /or procedures are completed and approved by the BOD.
4. Provide management and support to Incident Management Team (IMT), Fire Use Management Teams (FUMT), Area Command Team, and the Northern Rockies Multi-agency Coordination Group.

The Zone will delegate a representative to each of the NRCG Committees to include:
Aviation; Business; Equipment; Fire Use; Native American Crews (NAC);
Operations; Prevention and Interface – including Restrictions; Training

MEETINGS

The Chairperson may determine as often or deemed necessary when the BOD will meet. Normally there is a BOD meeting in late-fall and a larger participating agency representative meeting in mid-spring. Additional meetings are set as needed and can be in person or by conference call. Meeting notes and other documents will be dispensed through e-mail distribution. It is important that the Divisional meetings are held before the Central Montana Zone meeting so that the identified individuals are adequately representing their divisions.

FINANCING

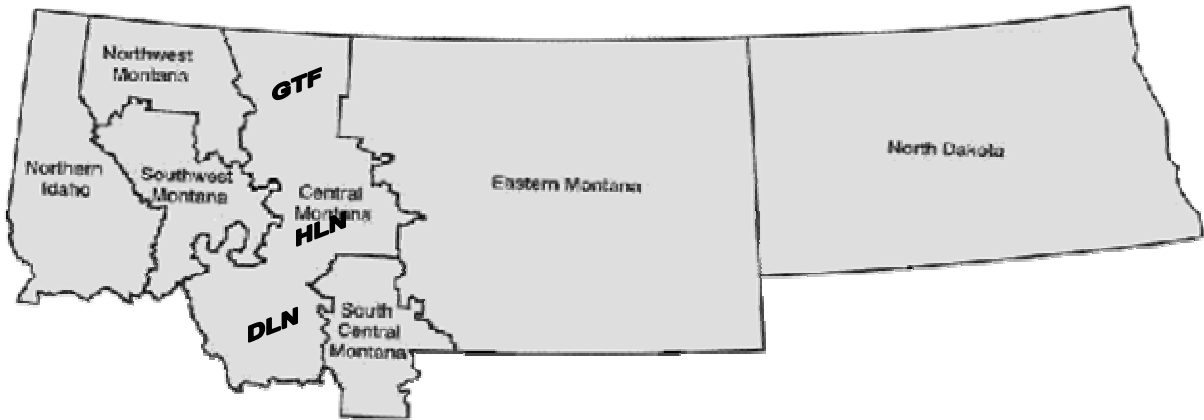
Each agency's financial contributions will be through negotiation for individual projects and will be limited to expenses incurred by representatives of the agency performing agency approved actions. A financial plan will need to be developed for each individual project that requires an obligation of funds.

Nothing herein shall be construed as obligating any of the member agencies to expend funds of the United States, or the State of Montana, Counties, or Tribes in any contract or obligation for future payment or work in excess of appropriations authorized by law and administratively allocated for this work.

IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY

Agency representatives will have the authority to represent their organizations in all operational aspects for wildland fire management. They will be expected to provide an interpretation of their organization's policy. If a change in policy is required within an agency, the members will work through the appropriate agency administrators.

APPENDIX A - ZONE MAP



APPENDIX B - NRCG Committee Zone Delegates:

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|----------------------------|--|
| ➤ Aviation (Inactive) | Ron Tieg (detailed FAO for HNF/LCF) |
| ➤ Business | <u>vacant</u> TBD |
| ➤ Equipment | Curt Miller (DNRC) |
| ➤ Fire Use | Brad McBratney (LCF) |
| ➤ Native American Crews | Ray Hart, BIA |
| ➤ Operations | Tammy Clark (BDF) |
| ➤ Prevention and Interface | Patrick McKelvey (County) |
| ➤ Training | vacant (Great Falls Divisions assumes in 08) |
| ➤ NRCG | Rita Chandler (HNF) |
| ➤ NRCG MAC Rep | Nancy Hall, Deputy FS (HNF) |