



COST SHARE AGREEMENT
Between the
USDA Forest Service, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest
And the
Montana State Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

This cost share agreement is between the agencies identified above, as negotiated for the following incident in accordance with the current 2017-2021 Montana Statewide Cooperative Fire Management and Stafford Act Agreement #17-FI-11015600-010. The purpose of this agreement is to allocate financial responsibility and to describe the cost division.

General Incident Information:

Incident Name:	Alder Creek	
Incident Start Date and Time:	7/8/2021	
Origin	Forest Service	
Township: 1N	Range: 12W	Section: 33
Estimated Size Large	Acres at the time of this agreement: 10,342	
Incident Cause:	Lightning	

Incident Numbers by Protection Agency:

Agency	Incident #	Accounting Code
Forest Service	MT-BDF-006269	0102 P1N5GE
MT-DNRC	MT-BDF-006269	901282

Cost Share Period: This agreement becomes effective on the date indicated below and will remain in effect until amended or terminated.

Start date/time: 7/10/2021

End date/time: 8/2/2021

Other conditions relative to this agreement:

1. Costs incurred by cooperators not engaged with the host agency or Incident Management Team (IMT) in the fire suppression activities will not be included as a part of this cost share agreement.
2. Responsibility for tort claim costs will not be a part of this agreement. Responsibility for these costs will be determined outside this agreement.
3. Agency specific costs will not be shared.
4. Costs for accountable, sensitive, and durable property purchased by each agency will be charged directly to that agency and will not be shared.
5. Non-suppression rehabilitation costs are the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency and will not be shared.
6. Each agency (including supporting agencies) will bill for their costs as outlined in the Montana State Cooperative Fire Management Agreement billing procedures.



Protecting Agencies' Strategies:

The Alder Creek fire was ignited on July 8, 2021; aerial resources reconned the fire to assess the viability of aerial insertion with ground resources. It was determined that ground resources could not support the incident with direct engagement due to inaccessible terrain, lack of safety zones, and mode of delivery solely relying on aircraft. Also, with the known weather forecast for July 9 predicting a red-flag warning for temp, RH and wind, it was decided by the Type 4 incident commander to use aerial resources for water delivery with a Type 1 helicopter and identify indirect containment options. Fire management and agency administrators focused on scale operational objectives to values at risk based on potential, and for the shift starting on July 10 an ad-hoc Type 3 organization was developed and in-briefed by local cooperators, the line officer and fire management personnel. This included USFS, Beaverhead County, and MT-DNRC. Coordination also occurred with the Beaverhead County Sheriff's Office in preparation for evacuation and structure protection plans.

With limited availability of firefighting personnel, it was decided to focus on firefighter safety, structure protection and indirect containment opportunities with high probability of success, generally where vegetation type changes. Collectively, a complexity analysis was discussed, and the consensus was to order an incident management organization. The USFS submitted the formal request for a Type 1 Incident Management Team on July 7, 2021, and the team assumed command of the incident on July 13, 2021.

Cost Share Methodology and Rationale:

Percent of effort for work related to structure assessment and/or protection will be split on a 50/50 basis based on work assignments in the corrected daily IAP and for aviation costs as reported by the IMT Air Operations Branch for aviation work in the divisions related to state protection.

Rationale for the 50/50 split: while DNRC has protection of the private property in the structure protection divisions, Forest Service has responsibility to prevent fire from moving onto State protection.

Support costs will be shared 25% to DNRC and 75% to Forest Service.

Rationale for the split: one IMT is managing two incidents (Alder and Trail Creek) and support costs are split evenly between the two incidents. DNRC shall bear 50% of the support costs of Alder which equates to 25% of the overall support costs.

Agencies agree to use costs from the e-ISuite Group Category Summary worksheet, (costs per day) to calculate cost burden for each agency from July 10 – August 2, 2021. July 10, 2021 is the date the DNRC granted county assistance to the counties with structure protection responsibility. August 2, 2021 is the date evacuations were reduced and the North flank of the fire was contained.

Costs will be shared by flat amount based on the following:

- Total Direct Structure Protection Costs July 10 – August 2 = \$2.4mm
 - DNRC share (50%) = **\$1.2mm**
- Total Indirect Costs July 10 – August 2 = \$9mm
 - DNRC share (25%) = **\$2.25mm**
 - USFS will pay 100% of indirect costs 8/3/21 through end of incident



- DNRC total responsibility:
 - **\$3.45mm**
 - **Cost for local government surge resources present for additional structure protection on Division K Sept. 8-10.** This includes E-275, E-277, E-278, E-279, E-280, E-281, E-282, E-283, E-284, E-285, E-287, E-288, E-289.

Principal Contacts:

The following personnel are the principal contacts:

Title:	Name:	Agency:
Agency Administrator	Cheri Ford	US Forest Service, B-D NF
Agency Administrator	Hoyt Richards	Montana DNRC
Incident Business Advisor(s)	Tracey Nimlos Sue Clark	US Forest Service Montana DNRC

Signatures of Authorized Personnel & Attachments:

This agreement and the apportionment described are our best judgments of fair and equitable agency cost responsibilities.

Agency Name: USDA Forest Service, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF
Address: 420 Barrett Street, Dillon, MT 59725

Signature: _____ Date: _____
 CHERI FORD
 Forest Supervisor

Agency Name: Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
8001 North Montana, Helena, MT 59602

Signature: _____ Date: _____
 HOYT RICHARDS
 Area Manager