Montana DNRC
Fire & Aviation Program
Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Advisory Council
July 17, 2013

MONTANA DNRC
FIRE PROGRAM
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MISSION STATEMENT

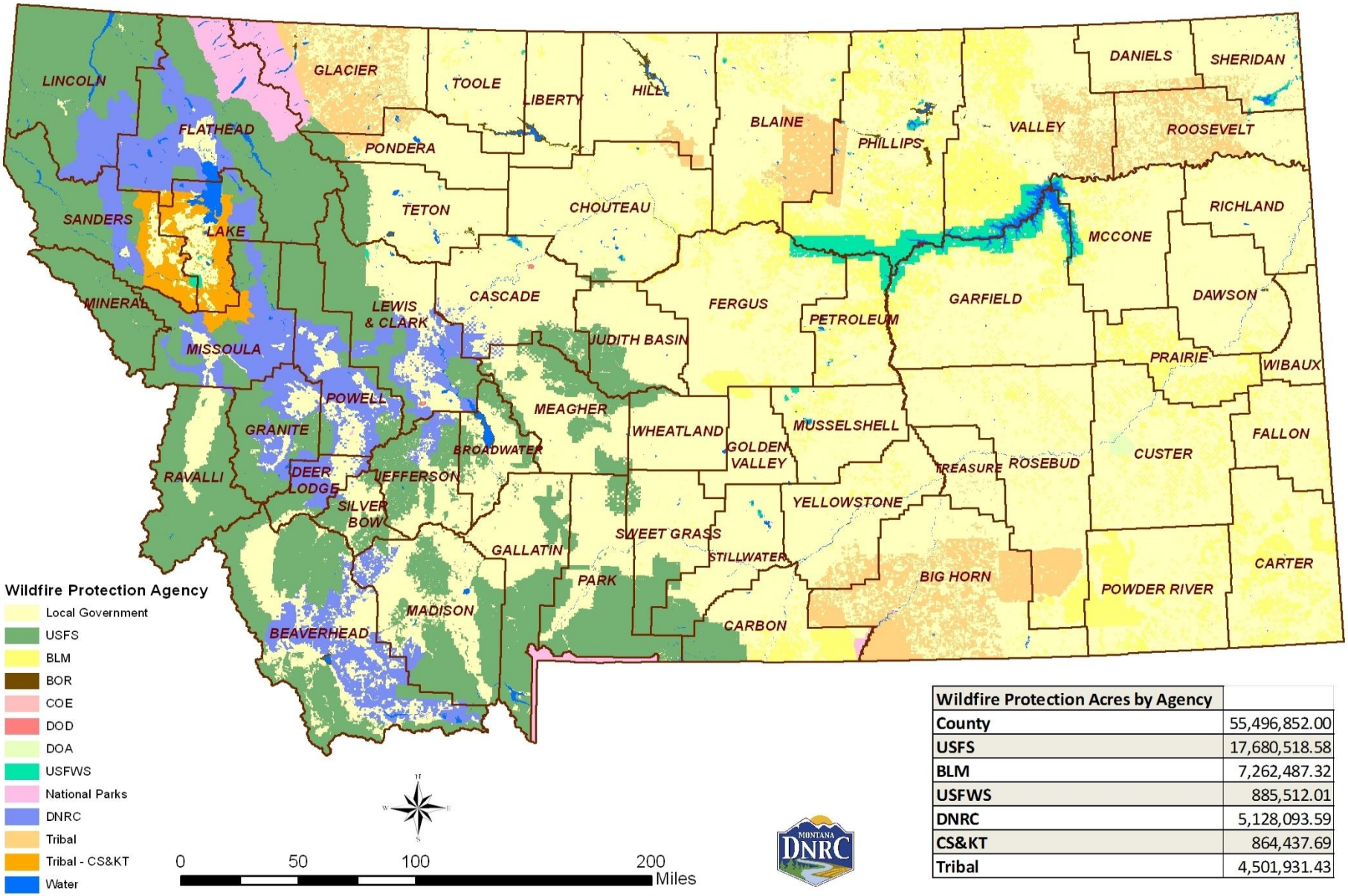
"We protect lives, property and natural resources on state and private lands by providing resources, leadership and coordination to ensure safe and aggressive fire suppression."

VALUES:

- Firefighter and public safety must always be our highest priority.
- We are fiscally responsible and accountable;
- We operate with consistency and truthfulness;
- We value our people and recognize their contributions to our success, and;
- Our success depend on healthy relationships we foster with our partners, stakeholders, and the public.

SAFETY -- TEAMWORK -- SUCCESS

2013 MONTANA WILDFIRE PROTECTION



Wildfire Protection Acres by Agency	
County	55,496,852.00
USFS	17,680,518.58
BLM	7,262,487.32
USFWS	885,512.01
DNRC	5,128,093.59
CS&KT	864,437.69
Tribal	4,501,931.43

Interagency Effort

- **Federal: USFS, BLM, BIA, NPS, & USFWS**
- **State: DES, National Guard, FW&P, DOT, MHP**
- **Local: Counties, VFDs, Sheriffs, DES**

- **Northern Rockies Coordinating Group**
- **Interagency Dispatch Centers**
- **Incident Management Teams**
- **Northwest Compact: AK, WA, OR, ID, MT, NW, YK, BC, ALBT, SASK.**

Montana DNRC Fire & Aviation Management

Wildfire Trends in Montana:

- **Longer fire seasons.**
- **More severe fire conditions.**
- **Larger fires.**
- **Higher fire costs.**

Montana DNRC Fire & Aviation Management

- **Operational considerations:**
  - **Burnout tactics:**
    - **Common tactic in lighter fuels**
    - **Effective at common fire breaks: roads, trails, ridgelines, etc.**
    - **“Lose a little to save a lot”**
  - **Fire suppression rehabilitation:**
    - **Repair damages only**
    - **Control erosion**
    - **Weed management**
    - **Property owner responsible for any repair of fire damages.**

Montana DNRC Fire & Aviation Management

- **Challenges:**
  - **Initial Attack done by VFDs**
  - **Recent increased investments (engines & training)**
  - **Staffing limits**
  - **Mixed ownership**

Questions?