



Draft Agenda
Montana Counties Forest Summit
May 1st – May 2nd, 2018
Holiday Inn Missoula, MT

Themes:

- Build on the Shared Learning Experience Created at the Last Summit
- Highlight Successes
- Discuss Solutions for Challenges

Objective:

Identify ways to effectively engage in forest management that benefits Montana's forested counties and communities.

Tuesday May 1st, 2018

Day 1

10:00 – 10:15

Welcome: Greg Chilcott, Ravalli County Commissioner and Chair Montana Coalition of Forest Counties; Matt Arno, DNRC Local Government Forest Advisor

10:15 – 10:45

Keynote: Leanne Martin, Forest Service Northern Region Regional Forester

10:45 -11:45

Understanding the 25% Fund: Jerry Drury, Regional Timber Sale Preparation and Stewardship Coordinator

This presentation will walk the audience through the complexities of revenue sharing from the federal government to the counties. In 2016 and 2017 these funds were reduced by sequester. They are calculated over a 7-year rolling average.

11:45 – 12:00

Fire Restrictions: Crystal Beckman, DNRC Fire Program

Each year fire restrictions are implemented and challenges arise on authority and enforcement. Crystal will provide a brief explanation of what is being done to address these challenges and where to find the fire restriction resources you need during the fire season. Those that want to ask questions or have a more in-depth discussion can attend the break out session at 4:05 pm.

12:00 – 12:30

Lunch

12:30 – 1:00

Congressional Updates: Congressman Gianforte ; Congressional Staff, Spenser Merwin (Senator Daines) Erik Nylund and Deb Frandsen (Senator Tester)

1:00 – 2:00

Litigation of FS Projects: Lawson Fite, General Counsel AFRC

Lawson will discuss the role public interest plays in litigation, how commissioners and collaboratives can most productively engage in both the legal and administrative processes and how they are linked. He will also discuss how supporters of projects can best work to keep projects from being enjoined. This may be particularly important considering the numerous fire salvage projects in Montana this year.

2:00 – 2:15

Break

2:15 – 3:00

How Does a NEPA Planning Team Work: Carol Johnson, Superior District Ranger, and Pat Partyka, West Zone Lolo Planning Team Leader.

Carol and Pat will discuss the recipe they use to get multiple NEPA projects successfully completed on time.

3:00 – 3:40

Economics of Roads and Restoration Activities: Kevin Weiner, Hydrologist and Anton Brennick, Silviculturist - Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest

Kevin and Anton will discuss how they identify and prioritize road work and restoration activities when they are planning a project, including how they balance the work that must be done to follow rules and laws and the work they would like to do while keeping the overall project economically feasible.

3:40 – 3:50

Partnership Award Presentation: Greg Chilcott, Matt Arno

3:50 – 4:05

Break

4:05 – 5:00

Break out Session:

- Fire Restrictions - An In-Depth Discussion
- Fire Contracting of Local Resources
- Good Neighbor Authority
- Other

8:15 – 9:00

Fire Salvage Success: Dave Hattis, Plains District Ranger and Steve Brown, Incident Commander for the Region 1 Post-Fire Incident Management Team

Dave will discuss how the County Commissioners and public input influenced the final Copper King Fire Salvage projects. Steve Brown will discuss how previous fire salvage successes, like Copper King, have shaped this year's fire salvage projects and the fire salvage process.

9:00 – 9:15

Break

9:15 – 10:30

Fire, What Can and Should be Done: Mark Finney Ph.D. Research Scientist

Dr. Finney will discuss the role of fire in our fire adapted forest in Montana and the need to manage wildfire risks to address when, where and how future wildfires will burn. This will include a discussion about smoke from prescribed fire and wildfire.

10:30 – 10:45

Break

10:45 – 11:30

Success Stories: County Engagement Sanders and Mineral Counties Lincoln County (GNA), Missoula County (Cohesive Strategy Implementation) Tri County (Fuels Program)

11:30 – 12:00

Breakout Groups:

Participants will pick a group associated with a success story that they would like to learn more about or discuss more in-depth.

- Sanders County
- Mineral County
- Lincoln County / GNA
- Missoula County
- Tri County Fuels Program

12:00 – 12:30

Closing Remarks: Governor Steve Bullock