



# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

June 9, 2010

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

\*\*\*\*\*

**CONTACT: Bob Reid**  
**Emergency Services Director**  
**Missoula County**  
**258-4758**  
**bried@co.missoula.mt.us**

## **MISSOULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ANNOUNCE FUEL MITIGATION FUNDING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Missoula, MT – Missoula County Commissioners opened a 45 day public comment period today for fuel mitigation project funds in accordance with Title III of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. Title III authorizes Counties to use funds to carry out activities under the Firewise Communities Program to provide homeowners in fire sensitive ecosystems education and assistance with implementing techniques in home siting, home construction, and home landscaping.

Firewise Communities Program activities in Missoula County have historically been carried out by various fire service and other local agencies using Title III funds passed through to them by Missoula County.

The following allocations are proposed:

To fund revision of Missoula County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan:  
\$20,000.

To mitigate the effects of wildfire by supporting Firewise Communities Programs, including cost sharing on fuels mitigation projects:

\$74,000 to Missoula Rural Fire District;

\$74,000 to Frenchtown Rural Fire District;

\$65,000 to Seeley Lake Rural Fire Department;

\$20,000 to Swan Ecosystem;

\$10,000 to other rural fire agencies in Missoula County proposing a project authorized for Firewise Communities programs and approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

- continues -

Agencies receiving these allocations must have the funds spent by June 30, 2011, or those funds will revert to Missoula County for re-allocation by the Board of County Commissioners.

The Board of County Commissioners will act on these proposals at their regularly scheduled Weekly Public Meeting on Wednesday, July 21, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 201 of the Missoula County Courthouse Annex.

Any person wishing to be heard on the matter may submit written or other materials to the Commissioners and/or speak at the hearing. Comments may also be submitted anytime prior to the hearing by phone, mail, fax or personal delivery to the Commissioners at their offices in the Missoula County Courthouse, 200 West Broadway, Missoula, MT 59802, Fax (406) 721-4043.

Additional information on the proposals may be obtained from Bob Reid, Director of Emergency Services, 200 West Broadway, Missoula, MT 59802; or by calling (406) 258-4758.

###