Montana Prescribed Fire Council

Annual Meeting, 2025

Tues-Thurs, November 18 - 20, 2025

Custer County Event Center – Miles City, MT

42 Garryowen Rd, Miles City, MT 59301

Meeting Objectives:

- Advance MTPFC Strategic Planning Initiatives
- Review HB 84, State Policy Updates, and Resources for Private Land Burning
- Highlight Local Burn Projects in Custer County
- Discuss Blackfoot Valley TREX and Upcoming Montana TREX Programs
- Foster New Relationships and Provide Space for Meaningful Connection

Tuesday, November 18th

Light snacks and coffee provided in morning, ***Lunch provided,*** *afternoon snacks and beverages, and* ***Dinner provided***

8:00 – 8:30	Participants Arrive and Check in
8:30 – 9:30	Welcome and Introductions
9:30 – 9:50	How we got here: MFAP, MFAC, MTPFC Ali Ulwelling, *DNRC Forest Action Plan Coordinator* Tim Love, *MTPFC Co-Chair*
9:50 – 10:50	MTPFC Member Flash Presentations (~10 min each) Tim Laroche & Jerry Serabia*, Missoula County Fuel Mitigation* Ella Hall, *Northern Rockies Fire Science Network* Ella Langer, *Community Smoke Preparedness* Zach Phillips, *Smoke Signal Ranch* Steve Carey, *MTPFC Steering Committee*
10:50 – 11:00	**Break**

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11:00 – 11:30	Montana DEQ, Federal Policy Update, and Prescribed Fire Aaron Ofseyer, *Air Quality Meteorologist (virtual presentation)* Jonathan Wood*, Property and Environment Research Center (PERC)*
11:30 – 12:30	**Lunch (provided)**
12:30 – 1:30	Fighting Fire With Finance – Risk Retention Groups and Prescribed Fire Andrew P. Morris *(virtual presentation)*
1:30 – 2:00	Seeking feedback and collaboration on new research project: Evaluation of Prescribed Fire Vegetation Outcomes in Montana Rangelands Georgia Harrison, *Montana State University*
2:00 – 2:10	**Break**
2:10 – 4:30	Prescribed Fire Policy in Montana and Burning on Private Land Jacob Tepsa, *FireCenter Fire Management Specialist* Jack Rinck, *Council Coordinator*
4:30 – 4:45	Closeout
5:45 – 7:15	**Dinner (provided by MTPFC at Custer County Event Center)**

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Wednesday, November 19th

Light snacks and coffee provided in morning, ***Lunch provided,*** *afternoon snacks and beverages, and* ***Dinner on your own.***

8:30 – 9:00	Participants Arrive
9:00 – 9:20	Strategic Planning Overview Keegan Flaherty, *Flaherty Consulting* Jack Rinck, *DNRC*
9:20 – 10:10	Panel Discussion: Burning For Something Matt Hall, *Fire Protection Bureau Chief, DNRC* Erik Peterson, *Private Landowner* Mike Schaedel, *The Nature Conservancy* Cory Cheguis, *Custer County* Pat Hardy, *DOI Bureau of Land Management*
10:10 – 11:00	Small Group Activity for MTPFC Strategic Planning Keegan Flaherty, *Flaherty Consulting*
11:00 – 11:10	**Break**
11:10 – 12:00	Large group discussion Keegan Flaherty, *Flaherty Consulting*
12:00 – 1:00	**Lunch (provided)**
1:00 – 5:00	Field Tour of Local Burn Projects *(see separate Field Tour Itinerary)*

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Thursday, November 20th

Light snacks and caffeine provided in morning

8:00 – 9:30	Prescribed Fire **TR**aining **EX**changes in Montana (TREX) Mike Schaedel, *The Nature Conservancy* Cindy Super, *Blackfoot Challenge* Melisa Griffith, *DNRC Safety and Training* Jack Rinck, *DNRC* Cory Cheguis, *Custer County*
9:30 – 9:40	**Break**
9:40 – 10:00	Closeout, what's next, and plus/delta