

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 <i>Ali Ulwelling, DNRC Forest Action Plan Coordinator</i> <i>Tim Love, MTPFC Co-Chair</i>
9:50 – 10:50	MTPFC Member Flash Presentations (~10 min each) <i>Tim Laroche & Jerry Serabia, Missoula County Fuel Mitigation</i> <i>Ella Hall, Northern Rockies Fire Science Network</i> <i>Ella Langer, Community Smoke Preparedness</i> <i>Zach Phillips, Smoke Signal Ranch</i> <i>Steve Carey, MTPFC Steering Committee</i>
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, <i>Flaherty Consulting</i> Jack Rinck, <i>DNRC</i>
9:20 – 10:10	Panel Discussion: Burning For Something Matt Hall, <i>Fire Protection Bureau Chief, DNRC</i> Erik Peterson, <i>Private Landowner</i> Mike Schaedel, <i>The Nature Conservancy</i> Cory Cheguis, <i>Custer County</i> Pat Hardy, <i>DOI Bureau of Land Management</i>
10:10 – 11:00	Small Group Activity for MTPFC Strategic Planning Keegan Flaherty, <i>Flaherty Consulting</i>
11:00 – 11:10	Break
11:10 – 12:00	Large group discussion Keegan Flaherty, <i>Flaherty Consulting</i>
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch (provided)
1:00 – 5:00	Field Tour of Local Burn Projects (<i>see separate Field Tour Itinerary</i>)

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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