



NORTHERN ROCKIES COORDINATING GROUP

To: A Thank You to Montana's Rural Fire Departments
From: Northern Rockies Coordinating Group
Re: 2012 Fire Season Efforts

The summer of 2012 was a long, hot, and very dry fire season that resulted in over a million acres and hundreds of buildings consumed by fire. Record books will show this summer's wildfires consumed the most Montana acreage since 1919. What the record books will not show is the number of acres protected from fire by the quick RFD response; the number of homes saved by firefighters; and the number of lives that your dedication has impacted.

The Northern Rockies Coordinating Group, made up of all the wildfire agencies within Montana, North Dakota, and Idaho, recognize the incredible effort put forth by local fire departments. Without the hard work and long hours put in by local fire departments, many fires would have grown beyond initial attack and inflicted more damage to the Montana countryside.

Because of the number of large fires this year, not everyone is aware of the thousands of small fires that were suppressed by local firefighters. Although the large, out-of-control wildfires make the news, the demanding work of the local fire department does not go unnoticed. This fire season was a powerful demonstration of neighbor helping neighbor as departments came together for a common cause.

The Northern Rockies Coordinating Group would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" for the support and hard work provided by your fire department during the 2012 fire season. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

Bureau of Indian Affairs	Montana Fire Chiefs	National Park Service
Bureau of Land Management	Montana Fire Wardens	North Dakota Forest Service
Idaho Department of Lands	Montana Peace Officers	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Montana Department of Disaster & Emergency Services	Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation	US Forest Service