

FEMA Fire Management Assistance for Montana's Lodgepole Complex Fire

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DENVER – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has authorized the use of federal funds to help with firefighting costs for the Lodgepole Complex Fire in Garfield and Petroleum counties in Montana.

The state's request for a federal Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) was initially denied on July 23, 2017.

The State of Montana appealed FEMA's denial today, July 27. A review of the wildfire situation back to the time of the original request was completed, along with an assessment of additional information provided by the State such as the threat to lives and improved property, strain on local and regional fire capability, economic impact to local communities and high fire conditions at the time of the request. Upon review, FEMA approved the state's appeal.

The authorization makes FEMA funding available to pay 75 percent of the state's eligible firefighting costs under an approved grant for managing, mitigating and controlling designated fires. These grants **do not** provide assistance to individual home or business owners.

Fire Management Assistance Grants are provided through the President's Disaster Relief Fund and made available by FEMA to assist in fighting fires that threaten to cause a major disaster. Eligible items can include expenses for field camps; equipment use, repair and replacement; mobilization and demobilization activities; and tools, materials and supplies.

