# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

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STATE OF MONTANA

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JAN 22 2007
Ravalli County Commissioners

Grant applications given to Skip along with this letter. GW

January 18, 2007

Dear Grant Applicant:

The 2007 application period for matching funds through the federally funded Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) program (U.S. Forest Service) and the Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) program (U.S. Department of Interior Agencies-Bureau of Land Management, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and National Park Service) is now open. Completed applications must be received no later than 5:00 pm **March 1, 2007**. While we realize this to be a short turnaround time, it is necessitated by changes within the federal system. It is possible that applications received after that time will not be considered for this year's funding, so please return as soon as possible.

Submit applications to:

**Montana DNRC**
**Forestry Division/Fire & Aviation Management Bureau**
**Attn: VFA/RFA Grant Program Administrator**
**2705 Spurgin Road**
**Missoula, MT. 59804-3199**

Changes have been made to the application. Single applications representing countywide fire organizations are required. Attach an Appendix A for each individual organization (Fire Company, District, Fire Service Area, etc) and list the project(s) for that organization. At the top of the Appendix please write the name of the applicant organization that Appendix corresponds to. For countywide projects (a project that benefits all departments within the county (i.e. repeater system, etc) include one Appendix A and denote that it is a countywide project that includes the fire departments listed in the main body of the application.

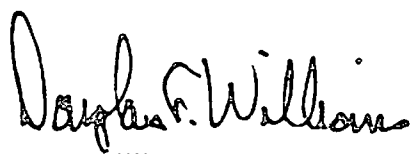
The funding for 2007 VFA/RFA program may be below that of last year, although the exact amounts will not be known for some time. The Department of Interior and the U.S. Forest Service fact sheets are enclosed with the grant application and I urge you to make sure that your request falls within those guidelines. I will also add that communications equipment should be capable of integrating with other agency fire fighting forces (analog and narrowband). The maximum grant amount for a single applicant is $20,000. Construction or improvement of fire stations for housing fire equipment, normal

operational expenses, and maintenance do not qualify for VFA/RFA funds. It is strongly suggested that every application contain some element for training, whether that's paying student expenses, sponsoring wildland classes, rental, etc.

Please note that there are changes within the application from previous years. Applications missing elements or incomplete may not be considered, so please look them over carefully when filling out and do not just copy last year's application without checking. Please note that grants are dependent on Congress funding the programs, which has not yet been done. As in every grant, do not expend requested funds prior to them being formally awarded by written notice. The VFA/RFA grant has been an excellent source for local fire organizations, and we encourage your participation. We appreciate the work involved in getting county agencies together and in putting the applications together fairly.

Details are available by contacting your local DNRC office, by calling (406) 622-5455, or on the internet at: www.dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/fire.

Sincerely,



Doug Williams
Rural Fire Program Coordinator
Fire and Aviation Management Bureau
Forestry Division