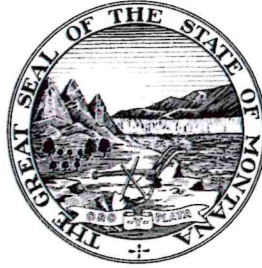


STATE OF MONTANA



Governor's Proclamation



WHEREAS, wildfires pose an extreme threat to our communities, critical infrastructure, and millions of acres of forestland and grassland across Montana; and

WHEREAS, Montana's wildfire seasons have become longer and more severe, making the need for active forest management evident; and

WHEREAS, Montana is committed to utilizing all tools available to reduce wildfire risk, including actively managing our forests to create healthier, more resilient forests, improve wildlife habitat, increase recreational opportunities, and support Montana's forest products industry; and

WHEREAS, most wildfires in Montana are human-caused, costing taxpayers millions of dollars and placing citizens, first responders, private property, and natural resources at great risk; and

WHEREAS, fire adapted communities can help keep Montanans safe and reduce the burden on our firefighting resources, and mitigation actions can reduce wildfire risk; and

WHEREAS, the local, state, federal, and tribal wildfire protection agencies of Montana, in partnership with other fire prevention and mitigation organizations, are working together to increase awareness of wildfires;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Gianforte, Governor of the State of Montana, do hereby proclaim May 2023

WILDFIRE AWARENESS MONTH

in Montana to encourage Montanans to prepare their homes and communities for wildfires.



GREG GIANFORTE
Governor