Wildland Urban Interface Panel for EQC Study Subcommittee
March 16, 2006

Panelists:

Bob Harrington, State Forester, DNRC (fire suppression agency perspective)

Ted Mead, Chief, DNRC Fire & Aviation Management Bureau (fire suppression agency perspective)

Brett Waters, Montana Firewardens Association (local fire department perspective)

Michael Kakuk, Montana Building Industry Association (development perspective)

Collin Bangs, developer (development perspective)

Don Lorenzen, State Farm Insurance (insurance industry perspective)

Debra Foley, Forest Owners Association (landowner perspective)

Format:

I.   Background Information

        A.   What is the WUI? - DNRC

        B.   What the federal Healthy Forests Restoration Act started - DNRC

        C.   How is fire suppression in the WUI different from wildland fire suppression? DNRC
            1.   Cost
            2.   Techniques, resources, tactics

        D.   What means are already available to people, communities, and local governments to mitigate catastrophic fire in the WUI? Full panel

        E.   Legislation in other states specific to the WUI, defensible space, incentives: Oregon, Utah, Arizona, California - LSD staff

II.   From each panelist's perspective:

        A.   What are the problems associated with residential development in the WUI?

B.   What are options (bills) the Legislature might consider to address those problems, if any?

III.   Opportunity for panelists to ask questions of each other

IV.   EQC Subcommittee discussion, direction
Options:
A.   Direct the work group to develop <u>specific</u> legislation for submittal in May

B.   Pursue <u>specific</u> legislation as a subcommittee

C.   Take no action on the WUI at this time

D.   New laws may be required, need more information: Extend EQC deadlines for WUI proposals; request HJR 10 work group to work through June, submit results in July

E.   New laws may be required, not enough time given EQC schedule: Recommend that the WUI be addressed by another interim committee having subject area jurisdiction

F.   Recommend that the EQC request a study resolution for the 2007 session that focuses solely on the WUI