

Kari Shelkey

Bozeman High Delegation

Proponents for the prevention of wildfires by adopting the “Guidelines For Development Within The Wildland-Urban Interface.”

As a representative of the Montana Wildfire Prevention and Safety Association (MWPSA), I strongly support the Guidelines For Development Within The Wildland-Urban Interface, which aims to reduce the risk of wildfires in urban areas. Wildland-urban interface describes the zone of transition between unoccupied land and human development, and by requiring that buildings within the interface have certain building codes, defensible space, and a vegetation management plan, the Guidelines work to prevent wildfires and protect the lives and property of citizens living in urban areas.

Passing the Guidelines is very important for the state of Montana as, of the western states, it has the fifth largest area of forested land where homes have been built bordering fire-prone public lands. The MWPSA strongly supports the passing of these guidelines, because they will protect Montana citizens and their property from harms related to wildfires. The state of Montana has a history of drought, and as stated by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Montana is currently at 68% of its average snowpack proving that the issue of dry summers and drought is increasing the potential of wildfires across the state. The increasing risk of wildfires in the state of Montana demonstrates the need to take measures and implement these Guidelines in order to ensure the safety of its citizens by protecting them from the harms of wildfires.

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