EXECUTIVE ORDER PROCLAIMING A DISASTER TO EXIST IN SUPPORT OF WILDFIRES IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, WARRANTING THE EXERCISE OF MONTANA’S DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

WHEREAS, wildfires continue to burn out of control across the State of Washington, and continue to threaten lives and personal property; and

WHEREAS, these wildfires have burned over three hundred thousand acres and destroyed over three hundred homes and over one hundred and fifty other structures and continue to threaten thousands others.

WHEREAS, on July 15, 2014 the Lt. Governor on behalf of the Governor of the State of Washington declared an emergency to exist due to the wildfire conditions; and

WHEREAS, resources to fight the fires across the state are scarce due to similar conditions within other states in the geographic area and nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the State of Montana is a member of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (“EMAC”), pursuant to Montana Code Annotated Title 10, Chapter 3, Part 10, through which Montana can provide mutual assistance to member states in order to respond to disasters that over-extend the ability of those other member states to reduce, counteract, or remove the danger; and

WHEREAS, due to the destruction and devastation from wildfires actively burning within the State of Washington, the State of Montana desires and is able to provide assistance as requested from the member states impacted by this ongoing event; and

WHEREAS, these conditions warrant the Governor to mobilize state resources, including but not limited to the Montana National Guard, under the terms and conditions of EMAC to meet the needs of the impacted member states; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has broad statutory authority under Montana Code Annotated, Title 10, Chapter 3, to mobilize state resources in the event of a disaster.
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steve Bullock, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, do hereby declare that a disaster exists, as defined in Montana Code Annotated 10-3-303(3) warranting the State of Montana’s support to the State of Washington.

This Order is effective August 14, 2014.

GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana, this 14 day of August, 2014.

STEVE BULLOCK, Governor

ATTEST:
Linda McCulloch, Secretary of State