



**COST SHARE AGREEMENT**  
**Between the**  
**USDA Forest Service: Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest**  
**And the**  
**State of Montana, Department of Natural Resources & Conservation**

This cost share agreement is between the agencies identified above, as negotiated for the following incident in accordance with the Montana Statewide Cooperative Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (2017-2021). The purpose of this agreement is to allocate financial responsibility and to describe the cost division.

**General Incident Information:**

Incident Name: DIVIDE COMPLEX: Balsinger and Ellis  
Incident Start Date and Time: 07/08/2021 1520  
Origin  
Latitude: 46:54:56 Longitude: 111:06:07  
Estimated Size of the complex: Balsinger Acres: 8,584  
Ellis Acres: 1220  
Incident Cause: Lightning

**Incident Numbers by Protection Agency:**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Incident #</b>	<b>Accounting Code</b>
USDA Forest Service	Balsinger: MT-HLF-005075	P1N5BE (0115)
	Ellis: MT-HLF-005075	P1N5CX (0115)
	Divide Complex: MT-HLF-005079	P1N5FU (0115)
Montana DNRC	Balsinger: MT-HLF-005075	901405
	Ellis: MT-HLF-005075	N/A
	Divide Complex: MT-HLF-005079	901290

Cost Share Period: This agreement becomes effective on the date indicated below and will remain in effect until amended or terminated.

Start date/time: 7/08/2021

End date/time: End of Incident

**Other conditions relative to this agreement:**

1. Costs incurred by cooperators not engaged with the host agency or Incident Management Team (IMT) in the fire suppression activities will not be included as a part of this cost share agreement.
2. Responsibility for tort claim costs will not be a part of this agreement. Responsibility for these costs will be determined outside this agreement.
3. Agency specific costs will not be shared.
4. Costs for accountable, sensitive, and durable property purchased by each agency will be charged directly to that agency and will not be shared.



5. Non-suppression rehabilitation costs are the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency and will not be shared.
6. Each agency (including supporting agencies) will bill for their costs as outlined in the Montana Statewide Cooperative Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (2017-2021), billing procedures.

**Protecting Agencies' Strategies:**

The Divide Complex (Ellis and Balsinger Fires) were managed under a full suppression strategy from initial attack throughout the life of the incident by all cooperating agencies.

**Cost Share Methodology and Rationale:**

The agencies recognize that the costs for the Balsinger Fire, which includes state and federal protection responsibility, are completely embedded within the Divide Complex. It is not possible to extract those costs in a manner which would provide a fair, equitable and truthful cost split. Instead, the complex will be taken as a whole. This will include the acres for the Ellis Fire, which is 100% federal. Ellis fire acres are assigned to the USFS portion of protection acres to determine the percentage of cost responsibility. The breakdown is shown below.

The agencies agree to use a protection area, burned-acre split for this cost share. The acres are defined on the Balsinger Fire Protection Final Map provided by the GISS. The final acres were 8,584 for Balsinger and 1220 for Ellis. Burned acres are divided among two counties (Cascade and Meagher) and the US Forest Service, Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest. The acres and percentages are reflected on the Ownership and Protection Final Maps and email discussions included here as Appendix A.

**Final Agency Apportionment:**

Total Acres: Balsinger: 8584 + Ellis: 1220 = Divide Complex: 9804

1. Federal Share:

a.	USFS	8120 acres Balsinger plus 1220 acres Ellis = 9340 total. $9340 / 9804 = 95.27\%$ of the total	<b>95.27%</b>
b.	BLM		%
c.	FWS		%
d.	NPS		%
e.	BIA		%

2. State Share:

a.	MT	464 acres Balsinger plus 0 acres Ellis = 464 total. $464 / 9804 = 4.73\%$ of the total	<b>4.73%</b>
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**Calculating the Apportionment and applying the percentages:**

The agencies agree to use total incident costs from their financial systems as they appear for the Balsinger Fire and the Divide Complex.



Since the Balsinger Fire originally had a unique Fire Code prior to joining the complex, some charges appear on that account, the remainder appear on the Divide Complex account.

The final agency percentages will be applied to both fire account codes and will be billed separately. This Cost Share Agreement will produce two settlements: one against the agency financials for Balsinger and the second against the agency financials for the Divide Complex.

**Principal Contacts:**

The following personnel are the principal contacts:

<b>Title:</b> Agency Administrator	<b>Name:</b> Sara Mayben	<b>Agency:</b> USFS Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest
 Agency Administrator	 Hoyt Richards	 Montana DNRC

Incident Business  
Advisor(s)  
Incident Commander(s)

**Signatures of Authorized Personnel & Attachments:**

This agreement and the apportionment described are our best judgments of fair and equitable agency cost responsibilities.

Agency Name: USDA Forest Service: Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest  
Address: 2880 Skyway Drive  
City, State Zip: Helena, MT 59601

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME: Sara Mayben  
Title: (Acting) Forest Supervisor

Agency Name: Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Address: 8001 N. Montana Ave.  
City, State Zip: Helena, MT 59602

Signature: Hoyt R. Richards Date: 3-23-2022  
NAME: Hoyt Richards  
Title: Area Manager, MT-DNRC Central Land Office



**Addendums to this Document:**

Addendums to this document include:

Appendix A – Map of Fire Area: Acres by Ownership

The Balsinger Protection Acres, per GIS and relayed via email are:

1. Ellis is 100% USFS Protection of 1220 acres.
2. Balsinger is 464 acres county (i.e., state) and 8120 USFS.

American Fork is forthcoming.

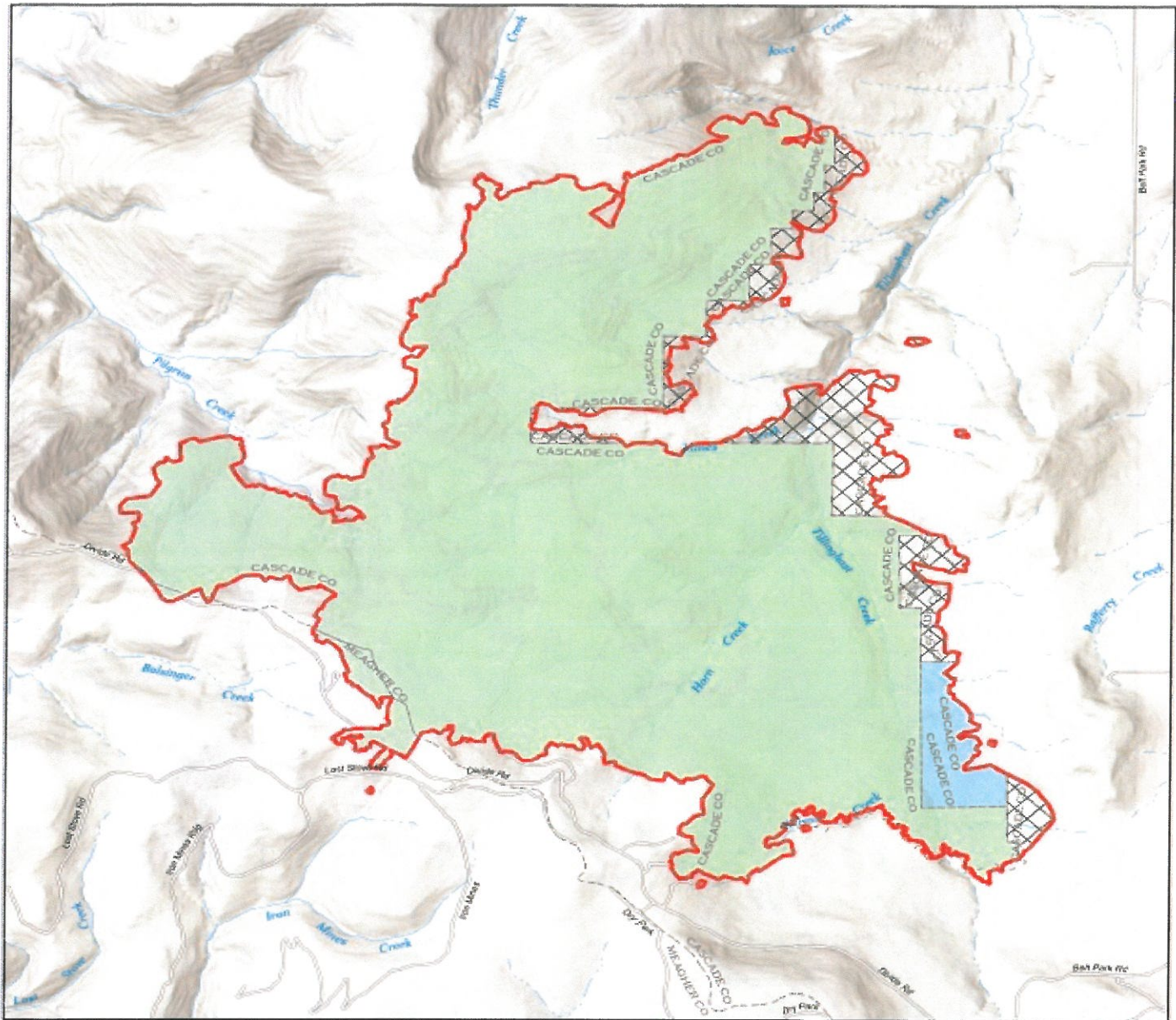


**David E. Nunn**  
**Deputy Fire Staff Officer**

**Forest Service, Region 1**  
**Helena – Lewis and Clark National Forest**



# Appendix A: Balsinger Fire Ownership Final Map



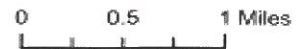
## Balsinger Fire Final Ownership Map

MT-HLF-005079  
Approx. 8,584 GIS acres 8/20/2021 1547

Operational Shift:  
8/21/2021

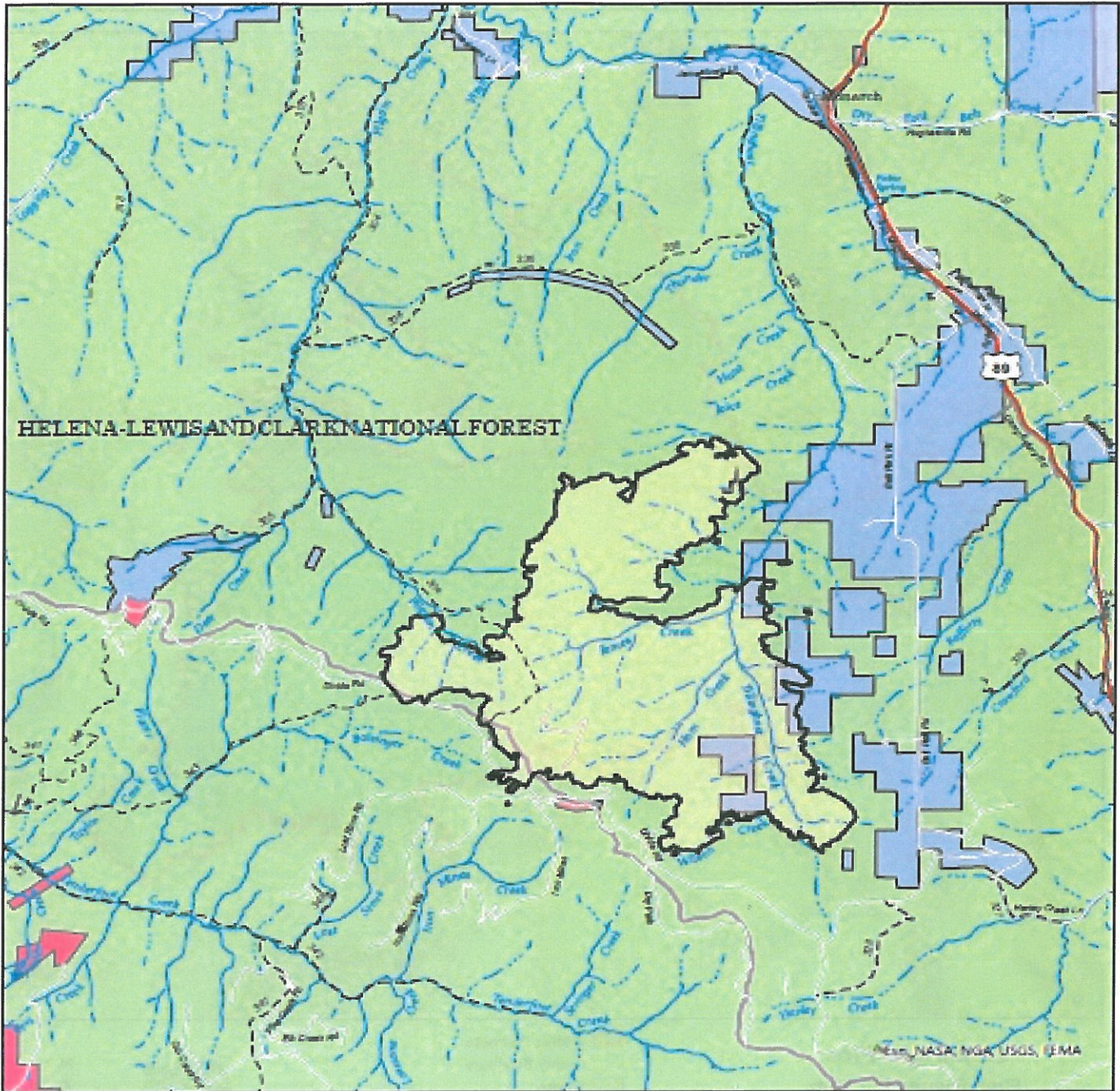


- Wildfire Perimeter
- County Boundary
- Private
- Montana State Trust Lands
- US Forest Service



County	Ownership	Acres	Percent
Cascade	Montana State Trust Lands	206	2%
Cascade	Private	676	8%
Cascade	US Forest Service- Helena-Lewis & Clark	7,585	89%
Meagher	US Forest Service- Helena-Lewis & Clark	117	1%
<b>Total</b>		<b>8,584</b>	<b>100%</b>

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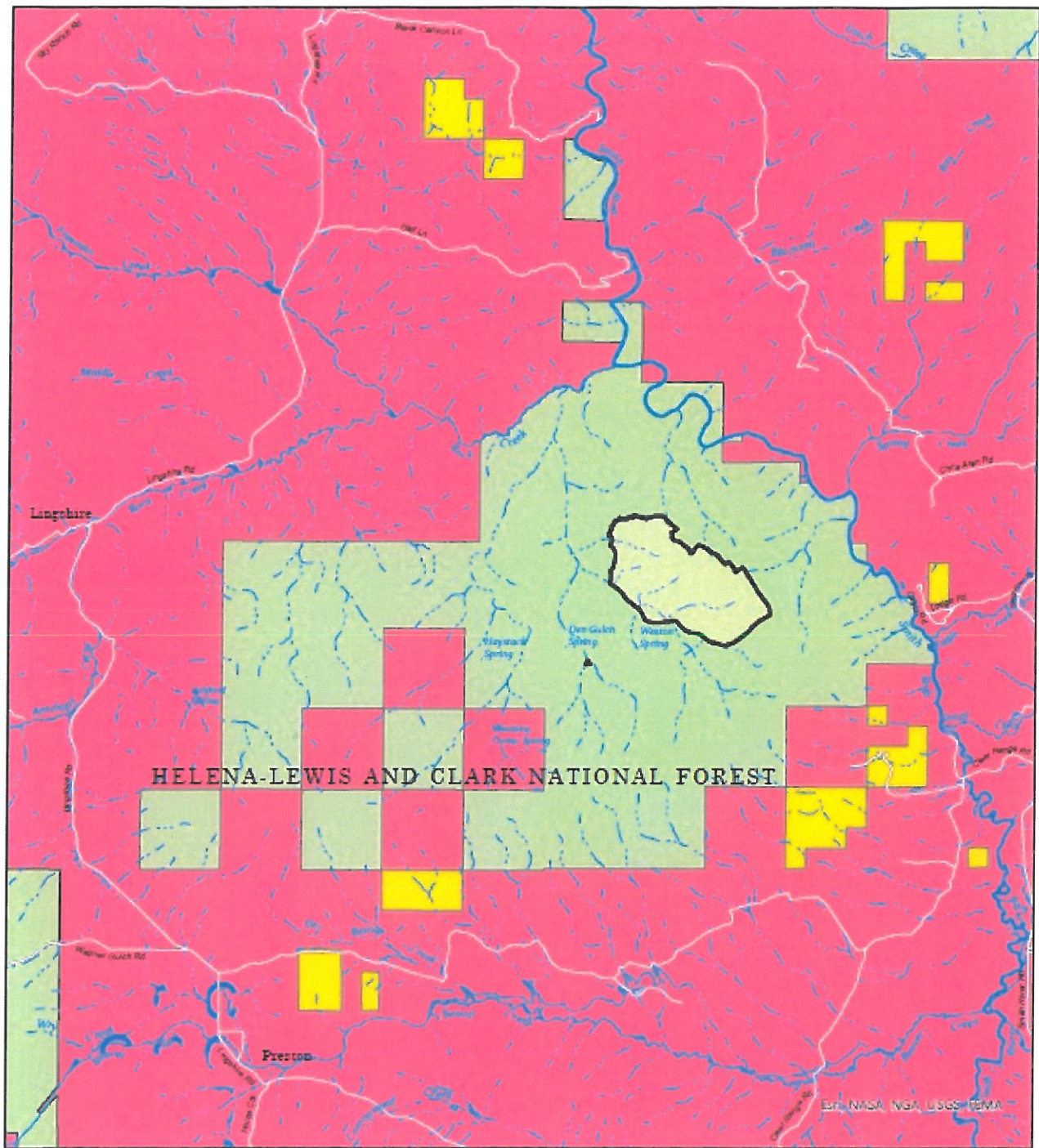
### Balsinger

MT-HLF-5079  
8,564 GIS acres 8/29/2021

-  Contained Line
-  Fire Perimeter
-  County - CASCADE
-  County - JUDITH BASIN
-  County - MEGHER
-  Federal - Helena - Lewis & Clark NF








10/11/2021 09:03  
Acres From DE and Field  
North American 1983 Datum, Lat Long 5079



### Ellis

MT-HLF-5079  
1,220 acres 7/24/2021

-  Contained Line
-  Fire Perimeter
-  County - MEAGHER
-  Federal - Bureau of Land Mgmt.
-  Federal - Helena - Lewis & Clark NF



10/13/2021 09:12  
Acres from GIS and Field  
North American 1983 Datum, LatLong Grid

