

# *Defending Montana Against Wildfires*

As wildfire seasons grow more intense and more expensive, Jon is working hard to keep families, property and businesses safe, ensure that firefighters have the resources they need, and helping communities rebuild from the devastation. Montana's last wildfire season burned more than 1.3 million acres and cost approximately \$400 million.

## ***Fire Grants Reauthorization Act***

President Trump signed Jon's Fire Grants Reauthorization Act into law, which reauthorizes the Assistance to Firefighters Grant and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant to make sure that Montana's firefighters have the training and equipment they need to keep communities safe. Local fire departments from Libby to Bozeman to Red Lodge and Columbus all use these resources every day.

## ***FEMA's Emergency Management Performance Grants***

Jon secured nearly \$3.3 million in FEMA funding to give local leaders the tools they needed to protect lives and property. These grants help equip and train local responders, ensuring communities across Montana have folks ready to serve the people of Montana.

## ***Helping Farmers and Ranchers Rebuild***

Jon secured over \$4 million for Montana farmers and ranchers to help rebuild after the devastating wildfires in eastern Montana. These USDA grants came after Jon convinced Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to tap into disaster assistance initiatives, which Jon secured in the 2014 Farm Bill.

## ***Fighting for Montana Resources***

This past wildfire season pushed the Montana National Guard's firefighting equipment to its limit. That's why Jon successfully secured two new firefighting bucket kits for CH-47 helicopters and five for UH-60 helicopters so the Montana National Guard has better tools to protect lives and property.

## ***Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG)***

In 2017, Jon delivered eight FMAG grants totaling \$11 million to mitigate, manage and control major fires on public and private land across Montana. From the Lodepole Complex Fire to Alice Creek and the Highway 200 Complex, Jon quickly got these grants to the ground.

## ***Wildfire Funding Fix***

In 2017, firefighting costs ate up 56 percent of the Forest Service's budget. In order to free up resources for timber harvest and trail maintenance, Jon passed a bill that treats wildfires like other natural disasters. This law will make it easier to proactively manage our forests and help reduce the impacts of catastrophic fire seasons.

## ***Cottonwood***

The troubling Ninth Circuit Court Cottonwood decision has been holding up timber projects and creating uncertainty for our mills. That's why Jon fought for and passed a law to reverse its effects and cut red-tape, so timber projects, trail maintenance, and conservation efforts can get back on track.

## ***Wildfire Mitigation Assistance***

Jon's Wildfire Mitigation Assistance Act would provide FEMA's hazard mitigation funding to communities recovering from certain major wildfires so they can take steps like building erosion barriers, restoring burned land, and improving drainage systems to help prevent flooding. It will also allow communities to further reduce fuels after the devastation of a wildfire.

U.S. SENATOR FOR MONTANA

**JON TESTER**