2011 Prospective Helena IHC Crewmembers,

If you are receiving this document it is because you have e-mailed or called expressing interest in becoming a member of the 2011 Helena Interagency Hotshot Crew (IHC). Thank you for your interest. We are looking forward to another great season. This letter may or may not answer all your questions regarding the crew and the application process, so feel free to contact me further with any questions you have.

We anticipate having between 2 and 6 seasonal positions available for 2011.

We will start the 2011 season on May 9th and all new crewmembers will need to be present that day for Critical Training. If you are a current student and can not be present on the 9th, you may want to consider applying for a crew that has a later start date. The season typically last until October 10th. However, this season ended October 22nd, so plan on being committed to the crew until the end of October.

You will need to have at least one season of wildland experience and be a fully qualified FFT2 in order to be competitive. The average first year crewmember has 2-4 seasons experience.

We hire only GS-4’s and above so you will need at least 6 months specialized experience as a GS-3.

The announcement numbers for temporary (seasonal) employment are; OCRT-462-4-HOTSHOT-DT and OCRT-462-5-HOTSHOT-DT-REL2. We are located in Helena. If you are applying for a GS-5 temporary spot, you will need to be a FFT1 (advanced fire fighter).

Please take the time to provide a good application for us to review. Do not assume that the person evaluating your application will know anything about fire. Do not put general statements like “moved dirt, chop brush, and fell trees” or “Did all duties expected of a \_\_\_\_\_ crewmember”. Explain your experience to us clearly. For example; if you where assigned lookout duties on a fire, tell us what it means to be a lookout, etc.

There is no Government housing available in Helena so you would be expected to acquire housing on your own.

All fire fighting work is hard; being a Hotshot is just more of the hard work. In order to prepare ourselves for this work we must have a very high baseline fitness level. Physical training will be a daily activity during the spring. We will run two days a week, do calisthenics twice a week, and go for a crew hike once a week. You do not need to be a gifted runner but you will need to be able to carry your gear (approx 50lbs) to the work sight, work all day, and walk back. We will measure our fitness level based on our ability to hike all day as a crew. If you are unable to keep up on the hikes, you will not be put on the manifest until you can.

Opera Non Verba

Sincerely, Fred