



LINCOLN COUNTY MONTANA

RESOLUTION 2026-25

A Resolution Creating the West Kootenai Rural Fire District

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR LINCOLN COUNTY, MONTANA FINDS:

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County, Montana ("Board"), received Petition No. 321421 on June 12, 2026, requesting creation of the West Kootenai Rural Fire District pursuant to Title 7, Chapter 33, Part 21, Montana Code Annotated ("MCA"); and

WHEREAS, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2026-18 declaring its intent to create the West Kootenai Rural Fire District and establishing a public hearing on the proposed district; and

WHEREAS, the Board conducted an initial public hearing on July 15, 2026, at the Eureka Annex, 66121 Highway 37, Eureka, Montana; thereafter, the West Kootenai Fire Protection Company submitted correspondence dated July 27, 2026, requesting withdrawal of the June 12 petition because of a defect in the County's notice procedure and requesting that the petition be resubmitted; and

WHEREAS, the resubmitted petition was received and recorded by the Lincoln County Clerk and Recorder as Petition No. 322154, dated July 27, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the signed petition pages accompanying the original petition, including the legal description of the proposed district boundaries, were retained as part of the County's petition record and were retained with the resubmitted petition; and

WHEREAS, Petition No. 322154 identifies the proposed district by reference to the Lincoln County Montana Map of Administrative Boundaries, Fire Services Layer, including Zone Code 1354F, Zone Description "West Kootenai Fire Protection Company," and Agency Code "WKF," together with the township, range, section, and parcel information contained in the petition and accompanying legal description; and

WHEREAS, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2026-20 resetting the public hearing on the proposed creation of the West Kootenai Rural Fire District; and

WHEREAS, the County provided notice of the August 19, 2026, public hearing as required by MCA 7-33-2102, including mailing notice to registered voters and real property owners within the proposed district and publishing notice as required by law; and

WHEREAS, the County received no returned notices mailed to real property owners within the proposed district. As of August 21, 2026, eight notices mailed to registered voters were returned, and the County cross-checked those returned voter notices against the associated property ownership records and confirmed that the corresponding property-owner notices were not returned; and

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STATE OF MONTANA LINCOLN COUNTY

RECORDED: 09/02/2026 12:31 KOI: RESOLUTION

CORRINA BROWN CLERK AND RECORDER

FEE: \$0.00 BY: Jessica J. J. J.

FOR: LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 512 CALIFORNIA AVE,



LINCOLN COUNTY MONTANA

WHEREAS, the Board conducted the public hearing on August 19, 2026, at the Eureka Annex, 66121 Highway 37, Eureka, Montana, and received oral testimony, written comments, documents and other evidence concerning the proposed district; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the record, including Petition No. 322154, the accompanying legal description, property ownership and taxable valuation information, public notices, testimony, written comments and other evidence presented in connection with the proposed district; and

WHEREAS, the County's review determined that the petition bears signatures representing approximately 45.99% of the ownership of real property and approximately 49.11% of the taxable value within the proposed district, exceeding the 40% thresholds established by MCA 7-33-2101; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the petition is sufficient, that the statutory requirements for establishment of the proposed rural fire district have been satisfied and that the proposed boundaries are appropriate for the provision of rural fire protection services; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the West Kootenai Rural Fire District should be established with the boundaries described in the legal description accompanying Petition No. 322154 and depicted on the incorporated boundary map.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County, Montana, as follows:

Section 1. Creation of District.

Pursuant to Title 7, Chapter 33, Part 21, MCA, the Board hereby establishes and creates the West Kootenai Rural Fire District.

Section 2. District Boundaries.

The boundaries of the West Kootenai Rural Fire District are those set forth in the legal description accompanying Petition No. 322154 and retained in the official record of the County Clerk and Recorder. The boundaries are depicted on the Lincoln County Montana Map of Administrative Boundaries, Fire Services Layer, identifying the West Kootenai Fire Protection Company, Zone Code 1354F and Agency Code WKF, which map is attached as Exhibit A.

Section 3. Governance and Fire Protection Services.

Following establishment of the district, the Board shall proceed in accordance with MCA 7-33-2104 and other applicable provisions of Montana law concerning the governance and operation of the district.

The Board may contract with a city, town, private fire company, or other public entity to furnish all fire protection services for property within the district. If the Board does not enter into such a contract, the Board shall appoint five qualified trustees to govern and manage the district as provided by law.

Section 4. Administrative Implementation.

The Clerk and Recorder is authorized to provide or file copies of this Resolution and the district boundary information with the appropriate governmental offices as required by law.



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THE BOARD FURTHER RESOLVES:

1. If a provision of this resolution conflicts with a prior resolution, the provisions of this resolution will control.
2. The provisions of this resolution are severable. If any part is held invalid, the remainder remains in effect.
3. Under Montana Code Annotated § 7-5-123, resolutions are immediately effective unless a delayed date is specified.
4. This resolution must be entered into the minutes and signed by the presiding officer pursuant to § 7-5-121, MCA.

END OF RESOLUTION

Approved as to Form:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marcia Boris".

Marcia Boris, County Attorney

Date presented to the Board September 2, 2026 Approved ☒ Disapproved ☐ Amended ☐

Adopted this 2nd day of September, 2026.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Teske".

Brent Teske, Chair

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Corrina Brown".

Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board



LINCOLN COUNTY MONTANA

Exhibit A: Lincoln County Montana Map of Administrative Boundaries, Fire Services Layer, showing the West Kootenai Fire Protection Company, Zone Code 1354F, Agency Code WKF.

