

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2012-03

WHEREAS, The Black Hills National Forest is one of the most heavily populated forests in the United States and presents numerous wildland urban interface issues, where developed areas intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels; and,

WHEREAS, This area is susceptible to wildland fires that can devastate critical infrastructure, essential facilities, homes, and businesses, and threaten one of South Dakota's top tourism regions, including Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Crazy Horse Memorial, the historic towns of Lead and Deadwood, Custer State Park, and numerous other cultural and historical properties; and,

WHEREAS, The Black Hills National Forest and surrounding areas are recovering from the effects of a long term drought, which along with heavy fuel loads and pine beetle infestations in the northern Black Hills, and topography promote dangerous fire behavior and can hinder firefighting efforts; and,

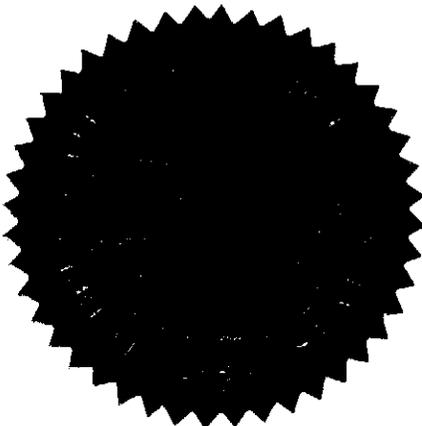
WHEREAS, An urban interface wildfire is a dynamic event that demands an immediate, full-scale response in order to contain and control its spread so as to protect lives and property; and,

WHEREAS, The mission of the South Dakota Division of Wildland Fire Suppression is to protect South Dakota's natural resources from the ravages of wildfire, concentrating its direct suppression responsibility on forestland in and adjacent to the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District; and,

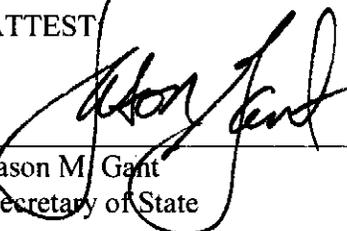
WHEREAS, The South Dakota Division of Wildland Fire Suppression, together with the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management, are also called upon by local fire departments throughout the state of South Dakota to assist with range fire fighting during gubernatorial declared emergency conditions:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dennis Daugaard, governor of the state of South Dakota, under the provisions of Chapters 34-48A, 33-9, and 41-20 of the South Dakota Codified Laws, otherwise known as the Emergency Management Law, Active Service of National Guard Law, and Forestry Law, do hereby grant authority to the South Dakota Division of Wildland Fire Suppression to augment all of its firefighting response efforts throughout the state of South Dakota, with the available assets of the South Dakota National Guard during and following an initial attack on any of the wildfires that the Division of Wildland Fire Suppression responds to during the 2012 Fire Season (April 1 through October 31).

Dated in Pierre, South Dakota, this Twenty-eighth day of February, 2012.



  
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Dennis Daugaard  
Governor of South Dakota

ATTEST  
  
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Jason M. Gant  
Secretary of State