

## Chapter 17 Fuels Management

### Introduction

XXX The purpose of the Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR) programs within the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Forest Service (FS) XXX have the purpose of reducing is to reduce hazardous fuels (HF) and risks to human communities XXX while and improving improve the health of the land. XXX To ensure these programs are coordinated, common priorities for fuel treatments have been established which follow these guidelines:

The DOI and FS along with other federal, state, tribal, and local partners will work to ensure effective HFR treatment efforts are collectively planned and implemented. These efforts will be consistent with the direction provided in:

- ~~XXX Restoring Fire Adapted Ecosystems on Federal Lands – A Cohesive Strategy – (Federal Cohesive Strategy)~~
- ~~XXX Western Governors Association – A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment – 10 Year Comprehensive Strategy~~
- XXX Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (January 2001)
- XXX Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (February 13, 2009)

### Policy

The federal fire agencies XXX both use the XXX following guides as policy. *Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide* (2008 Guide) to guide prescribed fire activities. XXX This guide provides standardized procedures, specifically associated with the planning and implementation of prescribed fire.

Policy, project planning and implementation priorities and standards common to all XXX DOI and FS agencies:

- The safety of firefighters and the public is the number one priority when planning and implementing HFR treatment projects.
- All HFR treatment projects will support resource management objectives as identified in their agency specific Land XXX/Resource Management Plans Use Plans.
- All HFR treatment projects will have plans that contain measurable objectives.
- All HFR treatment projects will comply with NEPA and all other regulatory requirements.

- 1 • All HFR management projects will be tracked and progress will be reported  
2 within required timeframes.
- 3 • All HFR treatment projects will be monitored to determine if treatment  
4 objectives were met and to document weather, fire behavior, fuels  
5 information and smoke dispersion. Evaluation reports are to be completed  
6 and maintained in the project file.
- 7
- 8 Some programmatic differences are identified in the following agency specific  
9 documentation and serve as agency specific direction.
- 10 • *BLM - Refer to (IM No. OF&A 2009-014)*  
11 • *FWS - Refer to Fire Management Handbook*  
12 • *NPS - Refer to RM 18*  
13 • *FS - Refer to FSM 5140*

#### 15 Reporting HFR Accomplishment

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17 The HF module of the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System  
18 (NFPORS) XXX has been developed and is the national interagency standard in  
19 DOI system for submitting proposed projects for approval, tracking  
20 accomplishments of the program, reporting performance, measuring  
21 accomplishments and accountability.

#### 23 XXX DOI Policy Regarding Planned HF Treatments Burned in a Wildfire

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25 XXX For DOI agencies, acres burned in a wildfire may only be reported in  
26 NFPORS as prescribed fire if all the following conditions are met:

- 27 • The area burned was in a pre-existing NFPORS treatment unit  
28 • NEPA is complete  
29 • The planned objectives were met  
30 • The accomplishment is approved by a Regional Fuels Specialist

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32 FS provides direction for reporting accomplishment from unplanned ignitions in  
33 the annual budget advice and by Washington Office interim direction letters.

#### 35 Prescribed Fire during Preparedness Levels 4 and 5

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37 Approval is required for implementation of prescribed fires at national  
38 preparedness Levels 4 and 5 (Refer to NFES 2092 *National Mobilization Guide*  
39 Sections 26.3.4 Preparedness Level 4 and 26.3.5 Preparedness Level 5).

#### 41 Federal Agencies Assistance

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43 XXX It has long been the intent of congress that the, "Interior Agencies and  
44 Forest Service should not charge each other for personnel and other resources"  
45 when providing assistance in conducting hazardous fuel treatments.

1  
2 The DOI agencies have agreed not to crossbill each other for fuels management  
3 assistance. Assistance to or from the FS, unless arranged otherwise, requires a  
4 local agreement, so that funds can be transferred between agencies. Informal  
5 agreements may be made where assistance is provided on a “quid pro quo”  
6 basis, where one agency provides assistance for another agency’s project and  
7 then in turn is the recipient of assistance from the other agency on a project of  
8 their own.

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10 Fuels management projects are considered regular planned land management  
11 activities as opposed to emergency activities; therefore, offices have the right to  
12 turn down requests from other offices to assist in fuels management activities.  
13 Offices should not consider providing personnel and resources at the expense of  
14 their own target accomplishments, and no office should be placed in a position  
15 of subsidizing another office’s fuels management activities.

16  
17 XXX Reference Section VI of the *Interagency Agreement For Wildland Fire*  
18 *Management among the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs,*  
19 *National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, of the United States*  
20 *Department Of The Interior and the Forest Service of the United States*  
21 *Department Of Agriculture, effective May, 2010.*

22  
23 Agencies will enter into separate agreements for personnel and other resources  
24 provided for planning and implementation of (hazardous fuels management  
25 program) treatments and activities. This may or may not result in an exchange  
26 of funds subject to the applicable statutory authority used.

#### 27 28 **Hazard Pay/Environmental Differential for Prescribed Fire** 29 **Implementation**

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31 Current policy is that hazard pay will not be paid for any prescribed fire. Under  
32 certain circumstances, hazard pay or environmental differential may be  
33 warranted. Offices should contact their servicing personnel office with specific  
34 questions.

- 35 ● ~~XXX FS is proposing to allow hazard pay for prescribed fire,~~  
36 ~~consequently, this may change this year. If it does, this will not accurately~~  
37 ~~reflect the current policy.~~

#### 38 39 **Use of Contractors for Prescribed Fire Implementation**

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41 Agencies can contract to conduct all or part of the planning and implementation  
42 of prescribed fire operations and/or all or part of mechanical treatments for HFR  
43 projects.

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45 If a contractor is actively involved in igniting, holding, or mopping up an agency  
46 prescribed fire, a Contracting Officer’s Authorized Representative (COAR) or

1 Project Inspector (PI) will be on the site (exceptions can be made for late stage  
2 mop up and patrol) to ensure that the burn objectives are being met and that the  
3 terms of the contract are adhered to. The agency administrator and/or FMO will  
4 determine the qualifications required for the agency representative (COAR or  
5 PI).

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#### 7 **Use of AD Pay Plan for Casual Firefighters for the Hazardous Fuels** 8 **Program**

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10 Refer to the DOI Administratively Determined (AD) Pay Plan for Emergency  
11 Workers (Casuals) for information regarding the use of emergency workers for  
12 hazardous fuel reduction projects. Refer to the FS Pay Plan for Emergency  
13 Workers for information regarding the use of emergency workers for hazardous  
14 fuel reduction projects. Forest Service does not have this authority.

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#### 16 **Activation of Contingency Resources**

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18 In the event an agency activates the contingency resources in their burn plan,  
19 sending units should respond and support the requesting agency immediately, to  
20 ensure that the public and firefighter safety are not compromised.

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#### 22 **XXX Non-Prescribed Fire HFR Activities**

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24 XXX For policy, guidance, and standards for implementation of non-prescribed  
25 fire hazard fuel reduction treatments (e.g. mechanical, biological, chemical),  
26 refer to agency specific policy and direction.