

1 **Chapter 17**
2 **Fuels Management**

3
4 **Introduction**

5
6 The purpose of the Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR) programs within the
7 Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Forest Service (FS) is to reduce
8 hazardous fuels (HF) and risks to human communities and improve the health of
9 the land.

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11 The DOI and FS along with other federal, state, tribal, and local partners will
12 work to ensure effective HFR treatment efforts are collectively planned and
13 implemented. These efforts will be consistent with the direction provided in:
14 • *Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy*
15 *(January 2001)*
16 • *Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy*
17 *(February 13, 2009)*

18
19 **Policy**

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21 The federal fire agencies use the *Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and*
22 *Implementation Procedures Guide* (2008) to guide prescribed fire activities.
23 This guide provides standardized procedures, specifically associated with the
24 planning and implementation of prescribed fire.

25
26 Policy, project planning and implementation priorities and standards common to
27 all agencies:

- 28 • The safety of firefighters and the public is the number one priority when
29 planning and implementing HFR treatment projects.
30 • All HFR treatment projects will support resource management objectives as
31 identified in their agency specific Land/Resource Management Plans.
32 • All HFR treatment projects will have plans that contain measurable
33 objectives.
34 • All HFR treatment projects will comply with National Environmental
35 Policy Act (NEPA) and all other regulatory requirements.
36 • All HFR management projects will be tracked and progress will be reported
37 within required timeframes.
38 • All HFR treatment projects will be monitored to determine if treatment
39 objectives were met and to document weather, fire behavior, fuels
40 information, and smoke dispersion. Evaluation reports are to be completed
41 and maintained in the project file.

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43 Some programmatic differences are identified in the following agency specific
44 documentation and serve as agency specific direction.

- 45 • **BLM** - Refer to (IM No. OF&A 2009-014)

- 1 • *FWS - Refer to Fire Management Handbook*
- 2 • *NPS - Refer to RM 18*
- 3 • *FS - Refer to FSM 5140*

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5 **Reporting HFR Accomplishment**

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7 The HF module of the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System
8 (NFPORS) is the national system for submitting proposed projects for approval,
9 tracking accomplishments of the program, reporting performance, measuring
10 accomplishments, and accountability.

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12 **Policy Regarding Planned HF Treatments Burned in a Wildfire**

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

- 16 • The area burned was in a pre-existing NFPORS treatment unit
- 17 • NEPA is complete
- 18 • The planned objectives were met
- 19 • The accomplishment is approved by a Regional Fuels Specialist

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

23

24 **Prescribed Fire during Preparedness Levels 4 and 5**

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

29

30 **Federal Agencies Assistance**

31

32 Reference Section VI of the *Interagency Agreement For Wildland Fire*
33 *Management among the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs,*
34 *National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, of the United States*
35 *Department Of The Interior and the Forest Service of the United States*
36 *Department Of Agriculture, effective May, 2010.*

37

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

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1 **Hazard Pay/Environmental Differential for Prescribed Fire**
2 **Implementation**

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

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9 **Use of Contractors for Prescribed Fire Implementation**

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11 Agencies can contract to conduct all or part of the planning and implementation
12 of prescribed fire operations and/or all or part of mechanical treatments for HFR
13 projects.

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15 If a contractor is actively involved in igniting, holding, or mopping up an agency
16 prescribed fire, a Contracting Officer's Authorized Representative (COAR) or
17 Project Inspector (PI) will be on the site (exceptions can be made for late stage
18 mop up and patrol) to ensure that the burn objectives are being met and that the
19 terms of the contract are adhered to. The agency administrator and/or FMO will
20 determine the qualifications required for the agency representative (COAR or
21 PI).

22
23 **Use of AD Pay Plan for the Hazardous Fuels Program**

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25 Refer to the DOI Administratively Determined (AD) Pay Plan for Emergency
26 Workers (Casuals) for information regarding the use of emergency workers for
27 hazardous fuel reduction projects.

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29 Forest Service does not have this authority.

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31 **Activation of Contingency Resources**

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

36
37 **Non-Prescribed Fire HFR Activities**

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