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Chapter 09

Fire Management Planning

Purpose

The purpose of fire management planning is to provide for firefighter and public safety, and outline fire management strategies and tactics that, when implemented, protect values and meet resource goals and objectives of the land and/or resource management plan.

Fire planning products include a concise summary of information organized by fire management unit (FMU) or by other geospatially explicit representations of the landscape. These products should be updated as new information becomes available, as conditions on the ground necessitate updates, or when changes are made to the L/RMP.

Products may address: response to wildfire, hazardous fuels and vegetation management, burned area emergency stabilization and rehabilitation, prevention, community interactions and collaborative partnerships roles, and monitoring and evaluation of programs.

Fire Management planning efforts should reference the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (2014) (Cohesive Strategy) vision and goals.

The Cohesive Strategy Vision is “To safely and effectively extinguish fire, when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and as a Nation, live with wildland fire.”

The Cohesive Strategy goals are:

- Restore and maintain landscapes
- Fire-adapted communities
- Wildfire response.

Policy

“Fire, as a critical natural process, will be integrated into land and resource management plans and activities on a landscape scale and across agency boundaries” (*Review and Update of the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, January 2001*).

Fire Management plans should be developed collaboratively between federal agencies and tribal, local, and state agencies to accomplish resource and protection objectives.

1 Every area with burnable vegetation must have an approved Fire Management
2 Plan (FMP). Fire Management Plans are strategic plans that define a program to
3 manage wildland fires based on the area's approved land management plan.
4 When practical, Fire Management Plans (FMP) should contain mutually
5 developed objectives for managing fires that cross jurisdictional boundaries.

6
7 Fire Management Plans must provide for firefighter and public safety; include
8 fire management strategies, tactics, and alternatives; address values to be
9 protected and values at risk; address the location and conditions under which
10 resource and protection objectives can be met; consider public health issues; and
11 be consistent with resource management objectives, activities of the area, and
12 environmental laws and regulations. Fire Management Plans should be based
13 upon the best available science.

14 **Agency Planning Guidance**

15 **DOI**

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17 Fire Management Plans must be consistent with the DOI Interagency Fire
18 Management Plan Framework and subsequent bureau direction. Fire
19 Management Plan content may be represented in spatial, text-based and/or
20 digital formats.

21 **FS**

22
23 By the 2016 Fire Season, Forest Service FMPs will be replaced with a
24 combination of enhanced Spatial Planning contained in the Wildland Fire
25 Decision Support System (WFDSS) and the Fire Management Reference
26 System (FMRS), a collection of plans required for fire program management,
27 such as aviation, operations, dispatch, and fire danger operating plan products.
28 Fire Management Planning will be a continuing effort to ensure that guidance
29 represented spatially in WFDSS and the FMRS are consistent with LRMP
30 direction, reflecting available fire response options to move from current to
31 desired conditions.

32
33 The FS will also replace its handbook direction (previous FSH 5109.19) with a
34 Fire Management Planning Guide that further describes Spatial Fire Planning
35 and the Fire Management Reference System (FMRS). As allowed in the Land
36 and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), fire response strategies should be
37 consistent with the Cohesive Strategy and developed in collaboration with
38 adjoining land managers. This Guide is at
39 http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/fire/fmp/fire_management_planning_guide_draft.docx.

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41 For agency-specific fire planning information, see:
42 <http://www.nwccg.gov/branches/ppm/ifpc/index.htm>

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- 1 For Fire Management Planning guidance, see:
- 2 • **DOI**- <http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/ppm/ifpc/index.htm>
 - 3 • **FS**- <http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/fire/fmp/>

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5 **Concepts and Definitions**

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7 For further clarification of concepts and definitions that follow, refer to:
8 *Terminology Updates Resulting from Release of the Guidance for the*
9 *Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (2009), April 30,*
10 *2010 (NWCG #024-2010), and the *Guidance for Implementation of Federal**
11 *Wildland Fire Management Policy, February 13, 2009.*

12

13 **Planning Related Definitions**

14

15 **Land/Resource Management Plan**

16 A document prepared with public participation and approved by the Agency
17 Administrator that provides guidance and direction for land and resource
18 management activities for an administrative area. The L/RMP may identify fire's
19 role in a particular area and for a specific benefit, or may contain general
20 statements regarding the role of fire across the land management unit. Guidance
21 contained in the L/RMP provides the basis for the development of strategic fire
22 management objectives and the fire management program in the designated
23 area.

24

25 **Fire Management Plan**

26 A Fire Management Plan (FMP) identifies and integrates all wildland fire
27 management (both planned and unplanned ignitions) and associated activities
28 within the context of the approved L/RMP. The FMP is supplemented by
29 operations plans, including but not limited to preparedness plans, pre-planned
30 dispatch plans, fuels treatment plans, and prevention plans. FMPs assure that
31 wildland fire management goals and objectives are coordinated.

32

33 **Fire Management Unit**

34 The purpose of Fire Management Units (FMUs) in planning is to assist in
35 organizing information in complex landscapes. The process of creating FMUs
36 divides the landscape into smaller geographic areas to more easily describe
37 physical/biological/social characteristics and frame associated planning
38 guidance based on these characteristics.

39 A FMU can be any land management area definable by one or more objectives
40 34 that set it apart from the management characteristics of an adjacent FMU
41 (e.g. management constraints, topographic features, access, values to be
42 protected, political boundaries, fuel types, and major fire regime groups). The
43 FMU may have dominant management objectives and pre-selected strategies
44 assigned to accomplish these objectives.

46

1 **Compliance**

2 Compliance generally includes the full range of considerations and procedures
3 defined by each agency to comply with laws such as (but not limited to); the
4 National Environmental Planning Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the Archeological
5 Resources Protection Act, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, Clean Air
6 Act, Wilderness Act, Executive Orders, etc.

7

8 **Spatial Fire Management Plan (SFMP)**

9 A Spatial Fire Management Plan is a strategic plan that contain text based and
10 spatially represented information that guides a full range of fire management
11 activities and is supported by a land or resource management plan. Spatial Fire
12 Management Plans

13

14 **Spatial Fire Management Plan (SFMP) Mapsheet**

15 A collection of one or more tables, graphics, maps or other information on a
16 single page or poster.

17

18 **SFMP Map Set**

19 A compilation of all the mapsheets that make up the SFMP.

20

21 **Connection to Other Plans**

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23 Fire Management Plans are tiered from Land/Resource Management Plans.

24 Other plans (e.g. operational, preparedness, and implementation plans) are tiered
25 from Fire Management Plans.

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