

2016 Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations Executive Summary of Changes

Chapter 1 – Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy Overview

- No substantial changes.

Chapter 2 – BLM

- Removed text regarding this chapter states, references, or supplements policy for BLM, and inserted, “This chapter provides policy and guidance for Bureau of Land Management fire and aviation program management as referenced in *BLM Manual Section (MS) 9200 Fire Program Management*.”
- Inserted text regarding the Fire Operations Division Chief’s responsibility to certify Area Command and Type 1 Command and General Staff task books and red cards for the national and Washington offices.
- Inserted text regarding the Fire Operations Division Chief to provide written daily NMAC group briefings to BLM Assistant Director (FA), Deputy Assistant Director (FA), state FMOs and geographic MAC members in FIAT states at National Preparedness Level 3 and above.
- Clarified existing text in the “Management Performance Requirements for Fire Operations” table regarding State Director/Associate and District/Field Manager responsibilities for establishment of a fire organization to meet fire management objectives based on priorities and within national allocations.
- Clarified existing text in the “Management Performance Requirements for Fire Operations” table regarding Agency Administrator fire training requirement.
- Clarified existing text in the “Management Performance Requirements for Fire Operations” table regarding Agency Administrator requirement to visit fires each year.
- Clarified existing text regarding Fire Training for Agency Administrators and their actings.
- Inserted text in the “Fire Staff Performance Requirements for Fire Operations” table requiring District/Zone/Field Office FMO to develop, maintain, and implement a drawdown plan.
- Inserted text in the “Fire Staff Performance Requirements for Fire Operations” table requiring the District/Zone/Field Office FMO to develop IMT briefing packages prior to fire season.
- Inserted text in the “Fire Staff Performance Requirements for Fire Operations” table requiring the State FMO to certify Area Command and Type 1 Command and General Staff positions.
- Inserted major subsection “State and National Duty Officers” regarding preposition of suppression assets during fire season and dedicated duty officer telephone numbers.
- Removed existing text for expired Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 2012-196.
- Inserted text regarding mobile fire equipment transfer approval requirements.
- Inserted text for engine and command vehicle driver qualifications when responding with lights and sirens.
- Inserted minor subsection “BLM Fire Operations Group National Preposition Strategy” and text regarding the establishment and purpose of the Asset Intelligence Spreadsheet.
- Clarified text regarding each state director and the Fire and Aviation division chiefs for Operations and Aviation to expend short term severity funds.
- Removed “fire management plan” and inserted “Fire Danger Operating Plan” in regards to National Level Severity Funding.
- Inserted text regarding, “Mitigate threats to values identified in Land and Resource Management Plans with AD, Fire and Aviation concurrence” in regards to National Level Severity Funding.
- Inserted text regarding AD, Fire and Aviation may consider other factors when approving requests for national severity.
- Clarified existing text regarding 12 instead of 13 key fire management positions in IFPM.
- Clarified text in the “BLM Hand Crew Standards by Type” table for Type 1 crew size as a maximum of 22.
- Removed existing text referencing the *Alaska Interagency Mobilization Guide*, for mobilizing Type 2 crews within Alaska consisting of 16 personnel.

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- Removed text regarding BLM Interagency Hotshot Crew (IHC) mobilization from Eastern and Southern Geographic Areas.
- Inserted text regarding BLM IHC crew size for mobilization as a standard of 20 with a maximum of 22.
- Clarified existing text regarding how BLM Fire Suppression Modules will be stasused, tracked, and mobilized in ROSS.
- Clarified existing text regarding the number of smokejumpers in “one load” as 6-10.
- Clarified text regarding the name of the Interagency Smokejumper Aircraft Screening and Evaluation Subcommittee.
- Clarified existing text regarding smokejumper physical fitness standards.
- Changed major subsection from “Sage Grouse Conservation Related to Wildland Fire and Fuels Management” to “Sage Grouse Conservation Related to Wildland Fire.”
- Removed existing text regarding sage-grouse conservation related to fuels management and clarified the website to access current information.
- Inserted text regarding large fire assessments for wildfires occurring in sage-grouse habitat.
- Removed text regarding WFDSS “Course of Action” and inserted “Cost tab.”
- Inserted major subsection “BLM Global Positioning System (GPS) Datum and Coordinate Standard.”

Chapter 3 – NPS

- Removed major subsection “NPS Wildland Fire Operations Website.”
- Inserted major subsection “Fire Management Leadership Board.”
- Inserted text under “Training for Park Superintendents” regarding required training for park superintendent designated actings.
- Removed existing text in the “NPS Firefighters General Training Requirements” table regarding 8 hours minimum for the Annual Fireline Safety Refresher and inserted, “No minimum hourly requirement.”
- Removed existing text regarding Fire Management Credentials and inserted text that, “The NPS Fire and Aviation Management Credential Program is currently suspended and undergoing a review.”
- Removed existing text regarding WFDSS “Course of Action” and inserted “Cost tab.”

Chapter 4 – FWS

- Clarified existing text regarding the Regional Director to review any prescribed fire that is converted to a wildfire.
- Removed existing text regarding Refuge Managers/Project Leaders performance requirements based on unit’s complexity.
- Removed Project Leader/Refuge Manager title and inserted Agency Administrator.
- Inserted “Zone” before FMO in the “Management Performance Requirements for Fire Operations” table and throughout the chapter.
- Clarified existing text regarding the Zone Fire Management Officer can represent the Agency Administrator on fire and fire aviation groups as delegated.
- Removed existing text regarding, “An FMO may be assigned to provide wildland fire management support to a group of refuges (zone) when individually each refuge does not warrant a fulltime FMO.”
- Removed existing text under Delegation of Authority for Regional Fire Management Coordinator to, “Direct accelerated, aggressive initial attack when appropriate.”
- Clarified existing text under Delegation of Authority for Regional Fire Management Coordinator from approve “emergency” fire severity funding to approve “short-term” fire severity funding.
- Changed major subsection from “Daily Fire Reporting” to “Fire Reporting,” and clarified existing text regarding reporting requirements.
- Removed existing text regarding guidance document for agency qualification of Agency Administrator (AADM) and inserted new guidance document.

- Inserted text regarding frequency of AD and EFF required training courses.
- Inserted major subsection “FWS Global Positioning System (GPS) Datum and Coordinate Standard.”

Chapter 5 – FS

- Changed major subsection from “Agency Administrator Positions” to “Agency Administrator Roles and Responsibilities for Incident Management.”
- Clarified existing text regarding Agency Administrator core competencies.
- Inserted website for *Line Officer Desk Reference for Fire Program Management*.
- Changed minor subsection from “Line Officer Certification Program” to “Agency Administrator Certification Program.”
- Removed existing text throughout the chapter referencing “Line Officer(s)” and replaced with “Agency Administrator(s).”
- Clarified existing text regarding Agency Administrator training, background and experience, and demonstrated ability for Working, Journey, and Advanced Levels.
- Inserted minor subsection “Evaluation Process” in regards to Agency Administrators.
- Removed minor subsection “Other Considerations” and consolidated/clarified text under minor subsection “Evaluation Process.”
- Inserted text under “Evaluation Process” regarding Agency Administrator creditable work experience to achieve and maintain certification levels.
- Inserted minor subsection “Currency” in regards to Agency Administrator core competencies.
- Inserted minor subsection “Definitions” under major subsection “Agency Administrator Roles and Responsibilities for Incident Management.”
- Inserted text referencing core fire management competencies under major subsection “Agency Administrator Responsibilities for Fire and Aviation at the Field Level.”
- Removed existing text referencing GSA and inserted DLA and the website for the DLA Wildland Fire Equipment Catalog.
- Clarified text regarding approval authority for the different incident types.

Chapter 7 – Safety and Risk Management

- Removed existing text requiring long-sleeved flame resistant shirt be yellow.
- Inserted text regarding long-sleeved flame resistant shirt and trousers be National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1977 compliant.
- Clarified text regarding Head Protection-hardhats.
- Clarified and inserted text under “Required Treatment for Burn Injuries.”
- Changed minor subsection “Burn Injury Criteria” to “ABA Burn Injury Criteria” in regards to the American Burn Association (ABA) criteria.
- Clarified and inserted text regarding American Burn Association burn injury criteria.
- Inserted text regarding burn injury severity determination.
- Inserted a picture depicting percentage Total Body Surface Area (TBSA) for burn injuries.
- Inserted minor subsection “Wildland Fires In or Near Coal Seams.”
- Inserted text regarding the “Safety Alert System,” and descriptions of the three levels of Safety Alerts.
- Clarified existing CISM text and inserted minor subsections “Critical Incident Peer Support (CIPS)” and “Critical Incident Peer Support Groups.”

Chapter 8 – Interagency Coordination and Cooperation

- Removed text regarding, “The office’s approved fire management plan must define the role of the contractor in the overall program” in reference to Contracts.
- Inserted text that ICS will be used to manage all fires under federal jurisdiction.
- Inserted BLM-specific text identifying the website for agreements/AOPs with Department of Defense and best practices, including UXO protocols.
- Deleted existing BLM-specific text regarding accepting each other’s standards during initial action and inserted, “BLM may accept the standards of any local cooperator through the

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duration of an incident when the cooperator has a current cooperative fire response agreement with BLM, and the cooperator is in compliance with the agreement. Personnel from agencies that do not subscribe to the NWCG qualification standards may be used on agency managed fires, and must only be assigned to duties commensurate with their competencies, qualifications, and equipment capabilities.”

- Inserted text regarding communication plans, training, ICS and integration of resources to the Cooperation element of Annual Operating Plans (AOPs).
- Inserted major subsection “All-Hazard Incident Management Teams and Other Non-Wildland Fire Incident Management Teams.”

Chapter 9 – Fire Management Planning

- Inserted text regarding the purpose of planning strategically.
- Clarified existing text regarding fire management planning efforts should address the vision and goals of the Cohesive Strategy.
- Inserted websites for the DOI framework, and BLM and NPS Fire Management Plan templates.
- Clarified existing text regarding the Forest Service replacement of FSH 5109.19 with a Fire Management Planning Guide.
- Inserted website for *WFDS Spatial Fire Planning Guide*.
- Removed existing text regarding fire planning information/guidance websites.
- Removed existing text referencing *April 30, 2010 (NWCG #024-2010)* document under Concepts and Definitions.
- Removed existing text regarding Fire Management Unit management objectives.
- Clarified existing text for DOI and the Forest Service regarding the connection of Land/Resource Management Plans and Fire Management Plans to other plans.

Chapter 10 – Preparedness

- Clarified existing text regarding Preparedness.
- Changed major subsection from “Preparedness Plans” to “Preparedness Planning” and clarified supporting text.
- Inserted text regarding a website for references, templates, and other supporting materials pertaining to the Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP) process.
- Inserted major subsection “Fire Danger Rating” and minor subsection “Communication of Fire Danger.”
- Clarified existing text under major subsection “Fire Danger Operating Plan Rating.”
- Changed minor subsection from “Climatic Breakpoints and Fire Business Thresholds” to “Decision Point Analysis” and clarified text.
- Inserted minor subsection “Fire Danger-based Decisions.”
- Moved “Staffing Level” under major subsection “Step-up/Staffing Plans” and clarified text.
- Removed minor subsection “Adjective Fire Danger Rating” and moved the clarified text to “Staffing Level” under major subsection “Step-up/Staffing Plans.”
- Inserted text regarding supplemental preparedness actions for Preparedness Level Plans.
- Changed major subsection from “Step-up Plans” to “Step-up/Staffing Plans,” and clarified text.
- Inserted “Staffing Level” as a minor subsection.
- Changed major subsection from “Initial Response Plans” to “Initial Response/Pre-planned Dispatch Plans,” and clarified existing text.
- Changed major subsection from “Fire Prevention/Mitigation” to “Fire Prevention/Mitigation Plans,” moved subsection forward in the chapter, and clarified existing text.
- Clarified existing text regarding Fire Danger PocketCard for Firefighter Safety and inserted text regarding timeframes for updating PocketCards.
- Inserted major subsection “Managing Weather Data in WIMS.”
- Changed major subsection from “Management Actions for Noncompliant Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS)” to “Management Actions for Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS),” and moved it back in the chapter.

- Inserted new major subsection “Predictive Service Areas.”
- Clarified text regarding 10 instead of 11 Geographic Area Predictive Services units.
- Clarified text regarding Local Unit Seasonal Tracking.
- Changed all minor subsections under Fire Severity Funding to include the word “Fire” and clarified text throughout.
- Clarified existing text that fire severity funding is not intended to mitigate threats to Threatened and Endangered Species habitat, wildland/urban interface, or other values identified in Land and Resource Management Plans for NPS, FWS, and the USFS.
- Changed minor subsection from “Appropriate Severity Funding Charges” to “Appropriate Fire Severity Funding Charges and Activities” and clarified text.
- Changed minor subsection from “Interagency Requests” to “Interagency Severity Requests” and clarified text.
- Inserted and/or clarified text in the “Sequence of Action and Responsible Parties for Severity Funding Requests” table for the Unit FMO and State/Regional FMO, and specific USFS requirements.
- Changed major subsection from “Professional Liability Insurance” to “Qualification for Professional Liability Insurance Reimbursement.”

Chapter 11 – Incident Management

- Inserted major subsection “All-Hazard Incident Management Teams and Other Non-Wildland Fire Incident Management Teams.”
- Clarified existing text regarding the Integration Reporting of Wildfire Information (IRWIN) data exchange system.
- Removed existing text referencing NWCG Memorandum # 012-2011, “Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) Decision Documentation and GACG Responsibilities.”
- Removed text regarding criteria for Flame Act funding in the WFDSS Initial Decision.
- Clarified existing text regarding requirements triggering submission of an ICS-209, and inserted text requiring submission of an ICS-209 when a NIMO is assigned.
- Inserted text regarding IC responsibility for suppression repair (see “Post-Fire Activities” Table).
- Inserted text regarding “Funding Type” for emergency stabilization and rehabilitation (see “Post-Fire Activities” Table).
- Clarified existing text regarding title of individual responsible for USFS national level approval for emergency stabilization (see “Emergency Stabilization Approval Authorities” Table).
- Clarified existing text regarding DOI and USFS Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) teams.

Chapter 12 – Suppression Chemicals and Delivery Systems

- Updated website for Forest Service avoidance area maps.

Chapter 13 – Firefighter Training and Qualifications

- Inserted the website for the Forest Service *Fire and Aviation Qualification Guide* (FAQG) throughout the chapter.
- Inserted text regarding, “Federal agencies will accept each other’s qualifications/certifications, regardless of jurisdiction and throughout the duration of the incident.”
- Clarified existing NPS text regarding IQCS account managers will have an IQCS Delegation of Authority from the certifying official.
- Added BLM to agencies requiring IQCS account managers to have an IQCS Delegation of Authority from the certifying official.
- Removed NPS text requiring, “. . . two or more qualified assignments be accomplished in a position before an individual may become a position performance evaluator,” and exceptions and subordinate unit leader positions.

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- Removed existing NPS text regarding 8 hours for the annual fireline safety refresher training and added NPS to the list of agencies that have no minimum hourly requirement.
- Removed text referencing “FireFit” and replaced with “Interagency Fire Fitness Program in the USFS WCT Implementation Guide.”
- Clarified text regarding FWS physical fitness and conditioning reference.
- Inserted text for the USFS to reference the WCT Implementation Guide for Medical Examination and Work Capacity Tests.
- Clarified text regarding established medical qualifications provide consistent medical standards for arduous positions.
- Inserted text regarding USFS submission requirements of OF-178 for light and moderate fitness level positions.
- Clarified text regarding three opportunities total for permanent employees for Work Capacity Test retesting.
- Inserted text regarding, “Smokejumper medical standards are the same as the Federal Interagency Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards-Arduous Duty Wildland Firefighter.”
- Inserted BLM bullet to reference Chapter 2 for smokejumper physical fitness standards.
- Clarified text regarding the primary mission of a Wildland Fire Module.
- Inserted text regarding FWS chainsaw operators and fallers evaluator qualification requirements for position task books.
- Clarified existing text that the new Forest Service Manual (FSM 2358) is anticipated for release in early 2016.
- Removed USFS text regarding the MTDC Chain Saw or Crosscut Saw Training Course 0667-2805.

Chapter 14 – Firefighting Equipment

- Removed text regarding NPS gross vehicle weight annual certified weight slip procedures.
- Inserted text regarding FWS policy document for Emergency Light Use.
- Inserted USFS policy document FSH 5109.16 regarding Emergency Light Use.
- Inserted minor subheading “Mobile Attack (Pump and Roll).”
- Moved existing text regarding Operational Procedures for BLM Firefighting Engines to an agency-specific bullet.
- Clarified existing text regarding fire engine staffing requirements for Type 4, 5, 6, and 7.
- Moved existing text regarding FWS-specific requirements for Type 6 and 7 engines under Fire Engine Staffing for Type 4, 5, 6, and 7 engines.
- Changed minor subsection from “Water Tender Staffing Standards” to “Water Tender Qualifications and Staffing Standards.”
- Inserted text regarding dozer and tractor plow experience requirement.
- Removed all agency-specific requirements regarding Dozer/Tractor Plow Physical Fitness Standards.
- Removed existing text regarding BLM requiring a 10 lb. class BC fire extinguisher for UTVs.
- Clarified existing text regarding ATV and UTV helmet standards.
- Clarified text regarding ATV/UTV PPE requirements for NFPA 1977 flame resistant shirts and trousers.
- Clarified existing BLM-specific reference for ATV/UTV policy.
- Inserted BLM text referencing Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 2015-136, *Transporting Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTVs) in Pick-up Trucks*.
- Inserted BLM-specific text regarding fire extinguisher requirement for UTVs equipped with a ground ignition device.
- Removed USFS direction (i.e. FSH 5109.32a) in regards to Ground Ignition Devices and Transporting/Dispensing Fuel.

Chapter 15 – Communications

- Deleted existing text regarding BLM and FWS GPS datum and coordinate standard under Radio Communications. Moved information to Chapter 2 and Chapter 4, respectively.

- Clarified existing text regarding permission required to use National Interagency Fire Tactical Frequencies.

Chapter 16 – Aviation Operations/Resources

- Inserted text regarding NPS National Office Organizational Responsibilities.
- Clarified existing text regarding USFS Branch Chief, Pilot Standardization responsibilities.
- Inserted text regarding NPS Regional Aviation Manager responsibilities.
- Inserted text regarding NPS Unit or Park Aviation Manager responsibilities.
- Inserted, removed, or updated USFS policy reference documents throughout Chapter 16.
- Inserted specific USFS text referencing FSM 5700 and employee use of an operational risk management process prior to every flight under Risk Assessment and Risk Management
- Removed existing text regarding “FAR” and inserted “14 CFR.”
- Inserted major subsection “Unmanned Aircraft Systems.”
- Inserted some BLM units have MOUs with local military airspace authorities for airspace coordination.
- Removed BLM reference document under Flight Request and Approval.
- Inserted USFS text regarding Special Use Mission Flights.
- Inserted night air tactical operations text to the list of mission flights for fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters.
- Inserted short-haul operations text to the list of mission helicopter flights.
- Inserted text adding maintenance crew members to Interim Flight and Duty Limitations Implementation, Phase 1.
- Inserted text regarding aviation manager’s actions to consider during Phase 1 Duty Limitations.
- Inserted text regarding, “All FS aircraft (agency-owned, exclusive use, leased and CWN) are available to move to areas of greatest agency need, thereby maximizing efficiency and effectiveness. Forest Service units are expected to adhere to procedures established in policy for acquisition and use reporting.”
- Clarified existing text regarding the USFS short-haul operations policy document.
- Clarified existing text regarding federal contracted airtankers are national resources.
- Clarified existing text regarding airtanker owners and operators.
- Inserted text regarding the BLM NAP contains governance requirements for airtankers.
- Clarified existing text regarding USFS governance of airtankers.
- Removed water scoopers under Airtanker Types.
- Inserted text regarding Airtanker Rotation including rotation of State airtankers.
- Inserted text regarding Canadian airtankers.
- Inserted text regarding Loading Operations of USFS airtankers under Airtanker Base Operations.
- Clarified existing text regarding Cooperator Aircraft.
- Inserted text regarding USFS-specific requirements for Cooperator Aircraft.
- Removed existing major subsection “Interagency Fire Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS),” and moved text under major subsection “Unmanned Aircraft Systems.”

Chapter 17 – Fuels Management

- Updated existing text to reflect terminology change “Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR)” to “Fuels Management (FM).”
- Changed major subsection from “Reporting HFR Accomplishment” to “Reporting Fuels Management Accomplishments.”
- Clarified existing text that all agencies have policy in regards to Reporting Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring.
- Inserted BLM-specific requirements for Reporting Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring.
- Changed major subsection from “Policy Regarding Planned HF Treatments Burned in a Wildfire” to “Regarding Planned Fuels Treatments Burned in a Wildfire.”
- Clarified and inserted text regarding what DOI agencies may report as “Fire Use” in NFPORS.
- Clarified USFS-specific text regarding conditions for “Fire Use” accomplishment reporting.

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- Changed major subsection from “DOI Reporting of Wildfire Acres That Meet Resource Management Objectives” to “Reporting of Wildfire Acres That Meet Resource Management Objectives.”
- Clarified existing text from “Resource Management Plan (RMP)” to “Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP).”
- Inserted text regarding FWS and USFS-specific requirements for Reporting of Wildfire Acres That Meet Resource Management Objectives.
- Clarified text regarding Prescribed Fire During Preparedness Levels 4 and 5 and inserted agency-specific requirements.
- Inserted text that, “Contractors must meet NWCG 310-1 qualification requirements and agency standards for specific skill positions for prescribed fire operations.”
- Changed major subsection from “Non-Prescribed Fire HFR Activities” to “Non-Fire Fuels Management Activities.”

Chapter 18 – Reviews and Investigations

- Updated existing text to reflect terminology change from “Escaped Prescribed Fire Review” to “Declared Wildfire Review.”
- Clarified existing text regarding Rapid Lesson Sharing.
- Removed existing text that Serious Accident Investigation (SAI) and Accident Investigation (AI) 24- and 72-hour reports may include posting through the NWCG Safety Alert System.
- Inserted text that the fire safety/risk management lead will provide a copy of SAI and AI 24- and 72-hour reports to the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center.

Chapter 19 – Dispatch and Coordination System

- Clarified existing text regarding Service and Supply Plan will contain current copies of competitive Incident Blanket Purchase Agreements (I-BPAs) and source lists for incident-only agreements.
- Clarified Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) requirements under Dispatch/Coordination Center Administration.
- Clarified existing text regarding NICC Functional Responsibilities for Management of National Aviation Resources.
- Inserted text that local dispatch centers utilize Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Geographic Information System (GIS) products.
- Inserted text for local dispatch centers regarding NMAC establishment of incident name protocols.
- Inserted text regarding each local dispatch center having documented procedures established for dispatching aviation resources.
- Updated existing text to reflect terminology change from “Medical Emergency Plan” to “Medical Emergency Response Plan.”

Appendices

- Clarified existing text in Appendix K (Interim NWCG Minimum Standards of Incident Emergency Medical Services) for flow and clarity.
- Clarified existing text in Appendix N (Wildland Fire Decision Support System Information) to reflect recent system updates, inserted information for two new subsections (tabs), and added a website for current refresher and training materials.
- Inserted text in Appendix P (Local Mobilization Guide/Dispatch Operating Plan) regarding inclusion of incident name protocols in Initial Attack/Response Plans.
- Clarified text in Appendix P (Local Mobilization Guide/Dispatch Operating Plan) regarding Service and Supply Plan will contain current copies of competitive Incident Blanket Purchase Agreements (I-BPAs) and source lists for incident-only agreements.
- Moved Service and Supply Plan references under Required Reference Materials in Appendix P (Local Mobilization Guide/Dispatch Operating Plan).