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Chapter 9 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. Planning strategically allows for responses to fire commensurate with risk, and movement towards desired conditions.

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 Land/Resource Management Plan (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 address the vision and goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (2014) (Cohesive Strategy).

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

13 **Agency Planning Guidance**

14 **Department of Interior (DOI)**

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

- 19 • The DOI framework is available at
20 [https://www.nwccg.gov/committees/interagency-fire-planning-](https://www.nwccg.gov/committees/interagency-fire-planning-committee/resources)
21 [committee/resources](https://www.nwccg.gov/committees/interagency-fire-planning-committee/resources).
 - 22 ○ *BLM – FMP Template is available at*
23 <http://web.blm.gov/internal/fire/fpfm/planning.html>.
 - 24 ○ *NPS – FMP Template and information is available at*
25 <http://famshare.inside.nps.gov/wildlandfire/budgetandplanning/fireman>
26 [agementplanning/firemanagementplans/default.aspx](http://famshare.inside.nps.gov/wildlandfire/budgetandplanning/firemanagementplanning/firemanagementplans/default.aspx).

27 **U.S. Forest Service (FS)**

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

36 The FS has replaced the FSH 5109.19 with a Fire Management Planning Guide
37 that further describes Spatial Fire Planning and the Fire Management Reference
38 System (FMRS). As allowed in the Land and Resource Management Plan
39 (LRMP), fire response strategies should be consistent with the Cohesive

- 1 Strategy and developed in collaboration with adjoining land managers. This
2 Guide is at <https://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/fire/fmp/>.

3 **Other Resources**

- 4 For information on utilizing the Spatial Fire Planning method in WFDSS, see
5 the WFDSS Spatial Fire Planning Guide located on the WFDSS Training page
6 at https://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/WFDSS_Training.shtml.

7 **Concepts and Definitions**

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

13 **Land/Resource Management Plan**

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

22 **Fire Management Plan**

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

29 **Fire Management Unit**

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

35 **Compliance**

- 36 Compliance generally includes the full range of considerations and procedures
37 defined by each agency to comply with laws such as (but not limited to); the
38 National Environmental Planning Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the Archeological

1 Resources Protection Act, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, Clean Air
2 Act, Wilderness Act, Executive Orders, etc.

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

4 A Spatial Fire Management Plan is a strategic plan that contains text based and
5 spatially represented information that guides a full range of fire management
6 activities and is supported by a land or resource management plan.

7 **Spatial Fire Management Plan Mapsheet**

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

10 **Spatial Fire Management Plan Map Set**

11 A compilation of all the mapsheets that make up a SFMP.

12 **Connection to Other Plans**

13 Fire Management Plans (DOI) and/or Spatial Fire Planning in WFDSS (FS)
14 capture fire related direction and decisions from Land/Resource Management
15 Plans (LRMP). If fire management direction and decisions were not adequately
16 integrated into the existing LRMP, additional NEPA may be necessary.