



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

DOI WILDLAND FIRE PROGRAM POLICY MEMORANDUM No. 2024-004

To: Director, Bureau of Land Management
Director, National Park Service
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
Director, U.S. Geological Survey

From: Jeffery Rupert, Director, Office of Wildland Fire

Subject: Guidance for Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Allocations during the First, Second, and Third Continuing Resolutions (Public Laws 118-15, 118-22, and 118-35)

Due Date: Does not apply.

Effective Date: Immediately on approval

Expiration Date: Remains in effect unless rescinded or modified.

Purpose: This Policy Memorandum (PM) provides information and direction regarding budget allocations for Department of the Interior (DOI) Wildland Fire Management (WFM) programs and activities for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 from funding made available by [Public Law \(P.L.\) 118-15, the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act](#) (a.k.a. the first Continuing Resolution [CR] of FY 2024), [P.L. 118-22, the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024](#) (a.k.a. the second CR of FY 2024), and [P.L. 118-35, the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024](#) (a.k.a. the third CR of FY 2024). The direction in this PM is consistent with the direction provided by DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2024-001, Guidance for Initial Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Allocations and Spend Plans for Fuels Management, Burned Area Rehabilitation, and Carryover Funding (Public Law 118-15, the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act); and DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2024-003, Guidance for Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Allocations during the First and Second Continuing Resolutions (Public Laws 118-15 and 118-22).

Background: P.L. 118-15 authorized continuing appropriations for FY 2024 from October 1 through November 17, 2023. P.L. 118-22 extended appropriations for Interior WFM through February 2, 2024, and P.L. 118-35 extended appropriations for Interior WFM through March 8, 2024. The CR, as amended and extended, includes language that makes available as part of the daily base rate for Interior WFM during the CR period \$429.0 million appropriated as disaster relief emergency supplemental funding for FY 2023 (\$45.3 million for Preparedness and \$383.7 million for Suppression Operations). The CR

amounts associated with this 2023 disaster relief funding are designated as emergency funding.

In addition, P.L. 118-15, as amended and extended by P.L. 118-22 and P.L. 118-35, stipulates that the CR funding is available for the federal wildland firefighter base salary increase (a.k.a. pay supplements) provided under section 40803(d)(4)(B) of Public Law 117-58 (a.k.a. the “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law,” or BIL). The CR funding may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to continue to fund these pay supplements through March 8, 2024.

Coordination: The Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) consulted bureaus and offices participating in Interior’s WFM program in developing the allocations and directions covered by this PM.

Scope: This PM applies to budget allocations and execution for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Park Service (NPS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), OWF, and any other bureaus or offices that receive WFM funding from the FY 2024 CRs.

Existing Policy Affected:

[DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2024-001](#), Guidance for Initial Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Allocations and Spend Plans for Fuels Management, Burned Area Rehabilitation, and Carryover Funding (Public Law 118-15, the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act), including its attachments; and [DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2024-003](#), Guidance for Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Allocations during the First and Second Continuing Resolutions (Public Laws 118-15 and 118-22), and its attachment.

Authority: [Departmental Manual Part 620 Wildland Fire Management](#), P.L. 118-15, P.L. 118-22, and P.L. 118-35

Timeframe: This PM applies to the requirements of, and funding made available by, P.L. 118-15 (the first CR of FY 2024), P.L. 118-22 (the second CR of FY 2024), and P.L. 118-35 (the third CR of FY 2025). The first CR of FY 2024 appropriated funding for the period of October 1, 2023, through November 17, 2023—a period of 48 days. The second CR of FY 2024 extended appropriations for Interior WFM through February 2, 2024—a total period of 125 days during FY 2024. The third CR of FY 2024 extended appropriations for Interior WFM through March 8, 2024—a total period of 166 days during FY 2024, which is 43.72 percent of the fiscal year.

Policy:

Budget Allocations: Bureaus and offices must follow the CR terms and provisions outlined in the September 30, 2023, memorandum from the Director of DOI’s Office of Budget, [“Guidance for FY 2024 Funds Execution Under H.R. 5860, the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act”](#) (see also the other attachments to [DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2024-001](#), which are accessible via the DOI website [here](#)).

Under the terms of the FY 2024 CRs, bureaus and offices must manage funding consistent with appropriations enacted for FY 2023 and should not assume the enactment of full-year FY 2024 funding

levels requested in the President's FY 2024 budget or in [H.R. 4821](#) (which the House of Representatives passed November 3, 2023) or [S. 2605](#) (which the Senate Committee on Appropriations reported to the full Senate July 27, 2023). Bureaus and offices should manage prudently during the CR periods to maintain ongoing activities in a manner that does not "impinge on final funding prerogatives," per direction in the POB memorandum.

WFM bureaus and offices should execute the amounts provided by the CRs in a manner that maximizes budgetary flexibility, consistent with law and guidelines, for the period following March 8, 2024. Bureaus and offices should keep in mind that full-year appropriations for FY 2024 might be reductions from the FY 2023 full-year enacted levels, and Congress might not provide the President's Budget request funding levels for some or any WFM activities.

Total allocation amounts for the FY 2024 CRs are provided in Table 1 (see below). Funding provided by the CRs is only available through March 8, 2024. If there were to be a lapse in appropriations March 9, any unobligated balances of CR funding would cease to remain available for obligation unless Congress stipulated to the contrary. Accordingly, all WFM bureaus and offices should closely monitor program expenditures during the CR period and return any projected unallocated funds to OWF timely for potential re-allocation to other bureaus and offices for the implementation of high priority work. If a bureau or office needs additional funding to accomplish high priority work through March 8, please notify OWF so an additional allocation can be made from existing available resources.

OWF notifies bureaus of Treasury transaction numbers once transfers are completed. Bureaus and offices should obligate funding consistent with policy guidance, including the guidance provided below.

Budget Guidance: Please contact OWF if you anticipate high priority needs through March 8 that your bureau or office cannot meet using the funds allocated in Table 1 and other available funding, including balances of funding carried over from FY 2023 to FY 2024.

In addition to the requirements of [DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2024-001](#) and its attachments (accessible via the DOI website [here](#)), the following budget guidance and direction applies:

- **Pay Supplements for Wildland Firefighters:** CR funding should be used for pay supplements for federal wildland firefighters (as authorized by BIL Section 40803(d)(4)) and tribal wildland firefighters.
- **Facilities Construction and Maintenance:** During the FY 2024 CRs, \$4,370,000 in new funding is available for Facilities Construction and Maintenance. However, OWF is not allocating any funding for facilities at this time, and no minimum funding is necessary to continue these operations during the CR period. OWF will reserve this funding in the WFM Parent account for any high priority needs that may arise during the CR period.

Table 1
Approved Allocations of Funding from
Public Laws 118-15, 118-22 and 118-35, the
First, Second, and Third Continuing Resolutions of FY 2024
(Dollars in thousands/ A)

Activity or Sub activity	BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	OWF	WFM Parent Account	Total by Activity or Sub activity
Preparedness (Regular)	25,700	91,300	16,550	19,680	5,250	8,450	166,930
Preparedness (Disaster Relief)	0	0	0	0	0	19,824	19,824
Suppression Operations (Disaster Relief)	6,000	10,000	0	16,000	0	135,735	167,735
Fuels Management	28,268	47,000	16,000	16,000	500	221	107,989
Burned Area Rehabilitation	4,037	3,057	974	880	2	0	8,950
Joint Fire Science Program	0	250	0	0	0	1,717	1,967
Facilities Construction and Maintenance/ B	0	0	0	0	0	4,370	4,370
Total by Bureau or Account	64,005	151,607	33,524	52,560	5,752	170,317	477,765

A/ Allocations are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars for presentation in this table.

B/ No funding is being allocated for Facilities Construction and Maintenance during the CR period. The CR funding for this sub activity is in the WFM Parent account.

Contacts: For more information, you may contact the following people regarding:

- Budget allocations: Stephen Elmore or Kimberly Salwasser
- Wildland firefighters' pay supplements: Joe Majewski
- Fuels Management: Kristy Swartz
- Burned Area Rehabilitation: Kristy Swartz

CC: Interior WFM Executives
Interior WFM Directors
Interior WFM Budget Staff

Attachment:

- 1.0 – Interior Table for P.L. 118-35, the third CR of FY 2024