

Appendix A - United States Wildland Fire Service Transition Guidance

Secretary's Order No. 3448, *Establishment of the U.S. Wildland Fire Service*, created the USWFS on January 12, 2026, and delegated to the Director, USWFS, "all authority necessary...to fulfill the Department's wildland fire mission," including any current or future statutory wildland fire authorities applicable to any DOI Bureau or Office. The Order further recognized the complexities inherent in the establishment and integration of the existing Bureau wildland fire programs into USWFS by providing that "there will be a transition period in which there may be overlapping authorities and responsibilities with respect to wildland fire management. During such period, the Department shall diligently operationalize the unified USWFS, while simultaneously ensuring that there is no negative impact on its missions due to the creation of USWFS."

As initial steps in this transition, the Department has assembled the USWFS senior leadership team and realigned wildland fire personnel formerly assigned to the wildland fire bureaus (Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)) into the USWFS. These steps, however, did not directly amend the existing systems of bureau-based fire delegations, roles, processes, and responsibilities. Nor did they alter the fundamental land management responsibilities assigned to the former fire bureaus or describe how the USWFS will work alongside and with those land management functions.

This Transition Guidance therefore is intended to clarify the various roles and responsibilities of both the USWFS and the land management bureaus and to set forth how wildland fire authorities and responsibilities will be distributed between the USWFS and the Bureaus during the next phase of the transition. It is designed to serve as a practical, easy-to-reference resource for both USWFS personnel and land managers alike regarding their respective fire-related roles, duties, and authorities, while more permanent policy and direction are developed.

The Transition Guidance uses "USWFS" to refer to employees now assigned to the USWFS and to expressly encompass the wildland fire management mission including preparedness, suppression, response, pre- and post-fire activities, and recovery. "Bureau" refers to land-managers at the former fire bureaus and encompasses all general land management activities. It will be necessary for the USWFS and Bureaus to coordinate locally on the roles each will perform. The Transition Guidance shall be applied according to the following general operating principles:

General Operating Principles

- It is imperative that the transition in no way impedes the Department's wildland fire mission.
- The Secretary has placed full responsibility for wildland fire-related responsibilities and authorities, formerly of the bureaus and offices, in the USWFS.
- Strong coordination between the USWFS, the Bureau partners, and the Solicitor's Office is essential to the success of USWFS programs and to the Bureaus' land stewardship missions.
- Projects will remain locally led, with sound decision-making at the field and geographic levels to meet program objectives and leadership intent.
- USWFS approval is needed for any program area that uses USWFS funds, even if the Bureaus retain field implementation responsibility for the work.
- During this transition period, documents already signed by Bureau leadership before the issuance of this Guidance remain valid, even if this Guidance now assigns signature authority to the USWFS. For example,

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a Statewide Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement signed by Bureau leadership prior to this Guidance continues to be valid; however, the USWFS will now serve as the responsible DOI agency for carrying out its terms and to determine any necessary updates.

- Generally, the USWFS’s approval and signature level for an item that is now within the USWFS purview will mirror the previous approval or signature level at the Bureaus, *e.g.* an action approved by local Bureau line, will be approved by local USWFS personnel.
- This Guidance is organized by category for ease of locating answers to common questions early in this transitional period. This also allows USWFS and Bureau partners to find the specific differentiation of roles between the USWFS and the Bureaus for a category together.
- Fire management activities are often conducted on an interagency basis with the involvement of cooperators and partners. This Guidance ensures the DOI will continue utilizing accepted interagency wildland fire standards and processes, including empowering interagency personnel to support efforts on DOI lands.
- Responder and public safety remain the most important priority on incidents regardless of any changes to USWFS or Bureau processes.

This Guidance is not meant to be a substitute for necessary, timely, and robust communication among all members of the Department to ensure a successful transition.

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Foundational Policy and Authorities

Topic	USWFS Authority/Responsibility	Bureau Authority/Responsibility
<i>Review And Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (2001) and Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (2009)</i>	<p>DOI provides this Transition Guidance to ensure clarity in authority and responsibility for Bureaus and the USWFS and for how both the USWFS and Bureaus can comply with Federal Fire Policy while further analysis of program and updates to policy and Department Manuals (DMs) is completed.</p> <p>The USWFS will work in close coordination with Bureaus on policy updates as necessary.</p>	<p>Bureaus will need to amend Bureau policies related to wildland fire management based on the new role the USWFS has in the DOI.</p> <p>Bureaus will coordinate with USWFS on policy updates to ensure alignment across the Department.</p>
Statutory Authority – Authorities given to Bureaus and not just the Secretary of Interior, including Bureau’s organic acts.	All authorities necessary were delegated to the Director of the USWFS under SO 3448 in January 2026.	

Administrative

Topic	USWFS Authority/Responsibility	Bureau Authority/Responsibility
Procurement – Agency Organization Program Coordinator (A/OPC)/System Administrator	USWFS employees will continue to use their legacy bureau charge cards until change procedures are determined and enacted.	Bureaus will continue to serve as the A/OPC and will manage and process all charge cards for their legacy bureau wildland fire employees until charge card procedures are determined and enacted.

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Records	<p>All DOI wildfire incident records are considered Permanent and Unscheduled by the Department and must not be disposed of or destroyed.</p> <p>The USWFS must retain all wildfire incident records, will follow current Bureau processes for records management, and will provide records to appropriate Bureaus so that their established record procedures for wildfire records can be followed until such time as new departmental direction on wildfire records is provided.</p>	<p>All DOI wildfire incident records are considered Permanent and Unscheduled by the Department and must not be disposed of or destroyed.</p> <p>Bureau employees should follow already established Bureau record procedures for wildfire incident records until such time as new departmental direction for wildfire records is provided.</p>
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests	USWFS FOIA requests will flow through the Office of the Secretary's FOIA program. The USWFS will have the responsibility to respond to FOIA requests they receive with records from the USWFS.	Each Bureau will have the responsibility to respond to FOIA requests they receive with records from the Bureau. Bureaus may need to coordinate with the USWFS for these requests.
Administratively Determined (AD) Hiring	The USWFS will hire ADs for wildland fire and all-hazard needs.	Bureaus will only hire ADs for all-hazard needs.

Agreements

Topic	USWFS Authority/Responsibility	Bureau Authority/Responsibility
Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreements Signature Authority	<p>The USWFS will assume wildfire protection responsibility and suppression reimbursement responsibilities on behalf of the Bureaus for any agreements related to wildfire, and agreements will be reviewed within a year of the date of this Guidance and updated as needed.</p> <p>The USWFS will be the signatory to new agreements.</p>	Bureaus will no longer sign these agreements, agreement extensions or agreement modifications.
Local Agreements tiered to a Statewide Master Agreement Signature Authority (e.g., local operating plans and mutual aid agreements)	<p>The USWFS will assume responsibility on behalf of the Bureaus for any local agreements related to wildland fire.</p> <p>The USWFS will be the signatory to new/revised agreements, as the USWFS will be signatory of Statewide Masters.</p>	Bureaus will no longer sign local agreements related to wildland fire.

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<p>Initial Response / Offset / Protection / Interagency Agreements for Wildland Fire Activities</p>	<p>The USWFS will assume responsibility for meeting the terms of these agreements and will continue operating with these agreements. Over the next year, the USWFS will evaluate each agreement to determine if it is still needed.</p> <p>The USWFS has authority to revise and enter into new agreements, including with NGO, state, local or federal entities (e.g., USDA-FS).</p> <p>The USWFS will be the signatory to any updates, revision or new offset/protection agreements if the agreement is funded by the USWFS.</p>	<p>Bureaus will no longer enter into agreements for initial response or off-set protection.</p> <p>Bureaus may enter into new agreements for implementation of post-fire activities when leading post-fire implementation. This will be closely coordinated with the USWFS.</p>
<p>Wildland Fire Program Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)</p>	<p>USWFS will assume responsibility of meeting the terms of these MOUs, potentially excluding some MOUs for post-fire implementation activities. The USWFS will continue operating with these agreements. The USWFS will review fire-related MOUs signed by Bureaus to determine if they are still needed and if so, will identify the appropriate USWFS official with authority to sign each MOU.</p> <p>The USWFS will be the signatory to any new wildland fire program MOUs, potentially excluding some MOUs for implementation of post-fire activities.</p>	<p>Bureaus will no longer enter into MOUs for the wildland fire program, excluding MOUs for implementation of post-fire activities.</p>
<p>Wildfire Land Use Agreements</p>	<p>The USWFS will work with DOI acquisitions for land use agreements for wildfire support.</p>	<p>Bureaus will no longer enter into land use agreements for wildfire support.</p>
<p>Wildfire Cost Share Agreements</p>	<p>The USWFS will review and sign wildfire cost share agreements since they are utilizing suppression funding.</p>	<p>Bureaus will no longer be signatories to wildfire cost share agreements.</p>
<p>Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Specific Agreements</p>	<p>The USWFS will assume responsibility on behalf of the Bureaus for meeting the terms of wildland fire management agreements between the BOR and the Bureaus, including protection agreements. The USWFS will continue operating with these</p>	<p>Bureaus will no longer enter into wildland fire management agreements with the BOR.</p>

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	agreements. The USWFS and BOR will evaluate these agreements over the next year.	
Tribal 638 Agreements	The USWFS has authority to enter into 638 agreements, but BIA will continue to maintain these agreements until a later point in the transition.	The BIA will continue to maintain these agreements until the USWFS has the capacity through Self Determination Officers once they are in the USWFS.
Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) Interagency Agreements	<p>The USWFS will assume responsibility on behalf of Bureaus for agreements related to coordination center staffing, supervision, supplies or funding.</p> <p>Agreements should be reviewed within a year of the date of this Guidance and updated as needed.</p> <p>The USWFS will sign new agreements.</p>	Bureaus will no longer be signatories to GACC Interagency Agreements.
Service First Authority (16 USC 8544)	<p>The USWFS will assume responsibility on behalf of Bureaus for agreements under the Service First Authority related to wildland fire.</p> <p>The USWFS will review existing agreements within a year of the date of this Guidance and update as needed.</p> <p>The USWFS may enter into new Service First Agreements for the wildland fire program.</p>	Bureaus may continue to enter into Service First Agreements for non-wildland fire program areas.
Sikes Act Agreements	The USWFS may enter into Sikes Act agreements for the wildland fire program.	Bureaus may continue to enter into Sikes Act Agreements for non-wildland fire program areas.
Financial Assistance Agreements Related to Wildland Fire	<p>The USWFS will assume responsibility on behalf of Bureaus for Financial Assistance Agreements funded by wildland fire.</p> <p>The USWFS will review existing agreements within a year of the date of this Guidance and update as needed.</p> <p>The USWFS will sign new Assistance Agreement when USWFS funding is used for the agreement.</p>	Bureaus may enter into Financial Assistance Agreements using wildland fire program funding <u>after</u> documented coordination with the USWFS.

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Aviation

Topic	USWFS Authority/Responsibility	Bureau Authority/Responsibility
Aviation Management Plans	The USWFS will continue aviation operations following approved Bureau aviation management plans for all DOI Bureaus conducting aviation operations.	Bureau aviation management plans will remain valid and will be followed until a USWFS aviation management plan can be developed and approved, and direction is given to transition to it.
End-product Contract Work	The USWFS will use current Bureau processes to review end-product contracts until transition to the USWFS is complete. Oversight extends to aviation contracts executed under BIA and tribally operated program funded through PL 93-638.	Bureaus may still conduct end-product contract work that may result in aviation utilization without giving federal entities operation control. Bureaus will coordinate end-product contract work using current processes and points of contact, to include unit, state/region, national aviation personnel as per Bureau and DOI policy.
Law Enforcement Aviation Support	The USWFS will use current Bureau processes for law enforcement aviation support until transition to the USWFS is complete.	Bureau law enforcement will continue following current process and Bureau points of contact for aviation support.
Aviation Reviews	The USWFS will conduct scheduled aviation reviews in 2026, including BIA, Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), and tribally operated programs under PL 93-638 and Self-Governance compacts, excluding the BLM.	Bureaus and tribally operated programs will participate in scheduled aviation reviews during 2026.
Aviation Fleet (crewed and uncrewed) Management	The USWFS will continue to provide governance, fleeting pilot standards, and manage fleet accounts for all DOI aviation assets, including both crewed and uncrewed aircraft.	Bureaus will ensure aviation personnel adhere to department standards. For aircraft purchases, bureaus will provide sufficient funding and request all aviation fleet purchases through USWFS.
Approval of Senior Executive Service (SES) Travel (Non-Mission) or Carriage of Non-Federal Personnel Using Government Owned, Leased, Contracted, or Cooperator Aircraft	The USWFS will continue coordinating with the Solicitor's Office for approval of SES or non-federal travel requests.	Bureaus will request SES or non-federal travel using government owned, leased, contracted or cooperator aircraft through USWFS Aviation.

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Dispatch

Topic	USWFS Authority/Responsibility	Bureau Authority/Responsibility
Third-Tier Dispatch Center with DOI Wildland Fire Responsibility	The USWFS will assume responsibility on behalf of Bureaus for any third-tier dispatch center agreements. The USWFS will be the primary DOI representative for Dispatch Center Board of Directors for all center operations to include funding, supervision, and assignment of responsibilities.	Bureaus will ensure non-wildland fire dispatch center programs are represented on the Dispatch Center Board of Directors and will provide applicable funding contributions.

Fuels and Post-Fire

Topic	USWFS Authority/Responsibility	Bureau Authority/Responsibility
Fuels Risk Mapping	The USWFS will provide a risk map and recommend priority treatment areas to reduce wildfire risk to aid Bureaus in selecting treatment locations.	Bureaus will engage the expertise of the USWFS fuels specialists and utilize the USWFS risk map to aid in selection of treatment locations.
Fuels Project Development	The USWFS will work closely with bureau staff (BIA, BLM, FWS, NPS and BOR) to develop fuels projects including serving on ID teams.	Bureaus will lead the development of fuels projects on DOI lands. Bureaus will be ultimately responsible for project development.
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Environmental Compliance	The USWFS may fund NEPA work by resource specialist or Interdisciplinary (ID) Team time for fuels work. Funding would be transferred to cover the approved cost entered into the project in Interior Fuels and Post-Fire Reporting System (IFPRS). USWFS personnel may serve as NEPA ID team members on project teams.	Bureau authorized officers will retain authority to sign decisions supported by NEPA analysis (e.g., Finding of No Significant Impact, Decision Record, and Record of Decision). Bureaus will lead environmental compliance including NEPA analysis requirements, consultation and meeting National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requirements, such as Section 106.

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<p>NEPA Analysis and Decisions Based on the Analysis When a Project is Not on Federal Lands and Either USWFS Funds are Expended on the Project or the USWFS is Responsible for Project Completion (See NEPA and Environmental Compliance topic for when Bureau lands are involved)</p>	<p>The USWFS may conduct environmental analysis following the NEPA requirements when either USWFS funding is spent on non-federal lands for a fuels project or the USWFS is responsible for project completion on non-federal lands. The USWFS may sign decisions supported by these analyses. For example, in AK, when a project is planned on Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) as amended (43 U.S.C 1620) Corporation lands and USWFS funds would be used to accomplish the project, the USWFS would conduct the analysis and sign the decision.</p>	<p>Bureaus will continue to be able to conduct environmental analysis following NEPA requirements and sign decisions based on the analysis, when Bureau funding is spent on non-federal lands.</p>
<p>Fuels Program of Work (POW) Development and Approval</p>	<p>The USWFS will lead the POW development process and will prioritize fuels projects when USWFS funds are utilized. Funding will be allocated by priorities and not by a pre-determined split.</p> <p>The USWFS will negotiate fuels target funded by USWFS with Bureaus.</p> <p>The USWFS will be accountable for fuels action targets that USWFS implements on Bureau lands with USWFS funding.</p>	<p>When USWFS funds are utilized for project implementation, Bureaus will submit projects to the USWFS through an annual POW planning process for funding allocation.</p> <p>Bureaus will fold into a single POW and projects will be prioritized from this single POW for funding.</p> <p>Bureaus will negotiate with the USWFS for fuels target funded by the USWFS.</p>
<p>Fuels Project Implementation</p>	<p>The USWFS will implement fuels projects, working closely with Bureau personnel to ensure meeting intended objectives and avoiding unintended outcomes.</p>	<p>Bureaus will work closely with USWFS personnel during implementation.</p> <p>Bureaus will close lands or roads for day-of work implementation.</p>

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<p>Prescribed Fire Implementation Signatures</p>	<p>The USWFS will complete technical reviews of all prescribed fires plans.</p> <p>Both the USWFS and Bureau will sign Prescribed Fire Plans.</p> <p>The USWFS will sign the Ignition Authorization for all prescribed fires.</p> <p>An NWCG qualified burn boss will sign the Go/No-Go Checklist.</p>	<p>Both the USWFS and Bureau will sign Prescribed Fire Plans.</p> <p>Bureaus will no longer sign the Ignition Authorization for prescribed fire.</p> <p>An NWCG qualified burn boss will sign the Go/No-Go Checklist.</p>
<p>Prescribed Fire Implementation without Hazardous Fuels Management Objectives</p>	<p>The USWFS has oversight responsibility for any prescribed fire activity on Bureau lands.</p> <p>The USWFS may implement non-hazardous fuels management prescribed fire projects for Bureaus.</p> <p>If the USWFS is not available to implement non-hazardous fuels management prescribed fire projects, the USWFS will still approve prescribed fire implementation by non-USWFS personnel such as qualified Bureau personnel (e.g., Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2 (RXB2)) and contractors.</p>	<p>Bureaus may request USWFS implementation assistance to implement non-hazardous fuels management prescribed fire projects.</p> <p>Bureaus must provide funding for the USWFS to implement non-hazardous fuels management prescribed fire projects.</p>
<p>Post-Fire Plan and Project Development, Approval and Implementation</p>	<p>The USWFS will maintain the national post-fire roster and organize support as requested.</p> <p>The USWFS will review, prioritize and nationally approve submitted post-fire plans from Bureaus that are utilizing USWFS funds.</p> <p>The USWFS will allocate funds for approved work.</p> <p>The USWFS will support implementation work as needed, requested and available.</p>	<p>Bureaus will submit post-fire plans and recommended projects. Most plans will be developed locally. Plans may include labor funding for project leads or implementation positions that are housed in either Bureaus or the USWFS.</p> <p>Bureaus will approve plans before submitting to USWFS.</p> <p>Bureaus will implement USWFS nationally approved post-fire work, funded by USWFS.</p>

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<p>Prescribed Fire at Preparedness Levels 4 or 5</p>	<p>The USWFS will approve prescribed fire implementation on DOI lands, including contracted or non-fuels management prescribed fire projects, at National or Geographic Preparedness Level 4 or 5.</p>	<p>Bureaus will no longer approve prescribed fire implementation on DOI lands at national or geographic Preparedness Levels 4 or 5.</p>
<p>Reporting and Monitoring</p>	<p>The USWFS will complete all fuels accomplishment reporting in IFPRS.</p> <p>The USWFS will be responsible to complete fuels project monitoring requirements. These requirements may be completed directly by USWFS or by funding the Bureau to complete them on the USWFS's behalf.</p> <p>The USWFS will complete Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring (FTEM) after an interaction between a wildfire and a fuels treatment.</p>	<p>Bureaus will complete all post-fire monitoring and reporting, including IFPRS data entry.</p> <p>Bureaus may complete fuels monitoring on behalf of USWFS.</p> <p>Bureaus will complete additional ecological monitoring as desired.</p>

Preparedness and Planning

Topic	USWFS Authority/Responsibility	Bureau Authority/Responsibility
<p>Land/Resource Management Plans (L/RMP)</p>	<p>The USWFS will work closely with Bureaus on L/RMP revisions and amendments to ensure inclusion of wildland fire goals, objectives, and actions.</p> <p>The USWFS will ensure there is DOI policy that all DOI L/RMPs that include burnable acres must have a wildland fire management section.</p>	<p>Bureaus will coordinate with USWFS specialists on LRMP revisions and amendments to ensure inclusion of wildland fire goals, objectives, and actions.</p> <p>Bureaus will maintain L/RMP signature authority.</p>
<p>Wildland Fire Management Plans (FMPs)</p>	<p>The USWFS will coordinate and work closely with the Bureaus on FMP development and maintenance during this transition.</p>	<p>Bureaus will continue with their current process of review, revision, updating and signature of FMPs during this transition. Bureaus will work with the USWFS to coordinate and align FMPs with LRMP during FMP development and maintenance.</p>
<p>Spatial Fire Planning Service Data</p>	<p>The USWFS will update the spatial fire planning service data related to L/RMP and FMP direction.</p>	<p>Bureaus will provide L/RMP spatial and supporting data to the USWFS.</p>

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<p>Wildland Fire Preparedness Planning Documents for DOI managed lands</p>	<p>The USWFS will assume responsibility on behalf of Bureaus for any preparedness planning documents signed by the Bureaus.</p> <p>The USWFS will be responsible for reviewing, updating, and approving preparedness planning documents such as: Fire Danger documentation, Preparedness Level Plans, Step-Up/Staffing Plans, Initial Response Plans, Pocket Cards/Seasonal Trend Analysis, Fire Prevention Plan and Mobilization Guides.</p> <p>In this transition period, current standards and formats should continue to be used until new direction is provided.</p>	<p>Bureaus will no longer be responsible for preparedness plans, except for Restriction Plans.</p> <p>Bureaus will continue to have responsibility for Restriction Plans that provide guidelines for when fire prevention orders or emergency area closures due to high fire hazard could be issued.</p>
<p>National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Membership</p>	<p>The USWFS represents DOI on the NWCG Executive Board and on subordinate committees. The USWFS ensures proper NWCG committee representation.</p>	<p>Bureaus will no longer have members on the NWCG Executive Board. Bureaus could provide members for subordinate committees.</p>
<p>NWCG Unit Identifiers (IDs)</p>	<p>Until new NWCG Unit IDs are established for the USWFS and direction is given on when and how to utilize new Unit IDs, personnel, assets, and protecting units will remain associated with their previous Bureau Unit IDs.</p>	<p>Until new NWCG Unit IDs are established for the USWFS and direction is given on when and how to utilize new Unit IDs, NWCG Unit IDs assigned to Bureaus will continue to be used as they were used prior to USWFS unification for personnel, assets, and protecting units.</p>
<p>Coordinating Group Membership</p>	<p>The USWFS will represent DOI on coordinating groups including geographic area coordinating groups and local boards or coordinating groups.</p>	<p>Bureaus will no longer have members on geographic area or local coordinating groups.</p>

Response and Suppression

Topic	USWFS Authority/Responsibility	Bureau Authority/Responsibility
<p>Wildfire Suppression on Bureau lands</p>	<p>The USWFS has wildfire protection responsibility for all BIA, BLM, NPS, and FWS lands.</p>	

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<p>Alaska Fire Service (AFS)</p>	<p>USWFS will assume DOI responsibilities for providing wildland fire response services and other fire management response activities previously covered by the AFS, including on lands that require protection under the ANCSA, as amended (43 U.S.C 1620). 620 DM 5 will be updated to reflect this.</p> <p>Fire management activities may include items such as but not limited to: signing delegations to incident commanders, approving wildfire decisions, signing wildfire cost share agreement, certifying fire reports, and managing trespass cases. When ANCSA corporation lands are involved, these activities will be in coordination with Native corporations.</p>	<p>The BLM will no longer be responsible to maintain and operate a DOI wildland fire suppression organization in Alaska. Additionally, the BLM is no longer responsible to provide fire response on DOI administered lands in Alaska or on lands that require protection under ANCSA.</p>
<p>Agency Administrators/Bureau Representatives</p>	<p>The USWFS will be the Agency Administrator, making the decisions for wildland fire activities and operations on both wildfires and prescribed fires. This table includes authorities that will be exercised by the USWFS on wildfires and prescribed fires. The USWFS will work closely with Bureau Representatives.</p> <p>The Agency Administrator role is different than an individual having the Agency Administrator (AADM) qualification. See “Agency Administrator (AADM) Qualification” topic under the Training and Qualifications category of the table.</p>	<p>Bureaus will serve as the Bureau Representatives on land and resource management issues for both wildfires and prescribed fires, and will document land and resource management decisions by co-approving wildfire decisions, Prescribed Fire Plans or other documents as noted in the table. This table includes some authority changes for Bureaus. Bureaus will work closely with the USWFS Agency Administrator.</p>
<p>Ordering Suppression Resources</p>	<p>The USWFS will order, brief, and deploy suppression resources.</p>	<p>Bureaus will work closely with the USWFS and coordinate ordering of resource advisor positions for wildfires involving Bureau lands.</p>
<p>Ordering an Incident Management Team (IMT)</p>	<p>The USWFS will order IMTs for wildfires. The reasons for ordering an IMT (e.g., resource and political concerns) will be in the decision documented in WFDSS which is developed and approved by both the USWFS and Bureaus.</p> <p>The USWFS and Bureaus will jointly in-brief IMTs.</p>	<p>The reasons for ordering an IMT (e.g., resource and political concerns) will be in the decision documented in WFDSS, which is developed and approved by both the USWFS and Bureaus.</p> <p>The USWFS and Bureaus will jointly in-brief IMTs.</p>

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Resource Advisors	The USWFS will order resource advisors for wildfires as needed or requested by Bureaus and Tribes.	Resource advisors on wildfires will work for Bureaus.
Sign Delegation of Authority to an Incident Commander (IC)	The USWFS will sign the delegation of authority for all wildfires involving Bureau lands to an IC for all complexities.	Bureaus will no longer sign the delegation of authority to an IC.
Sign Leader's Intent to ICs	The USWFS, Bureaus, and Tribes (where applicable) will provide input and sign the Leader's Intent to the IC.	The USWFS, Bureaus, and Tribes (where applicable) will provide input and sign the Leader's Intent to the IC. Input from Bureaus could include items such as but not limited to: responsibility to coordinate with Resource Advisors; expectations for working with resource specialists and permittees to provide access to the fire area to check on livestock; the process to follow to obtain Bureau approval if wildfire/emergency exceptions to prohibition of certain uses in Section 4(c) of The Wilderness Act is needed for fire operations; and the process to follow to request Bureaus issue emergency area closures due to high hazard.
Wildfire Decision Approvals	Both the USWFS and Bureaus will approve wildfire decisions in the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS).	Both the USWFS and Bureaus will approve wildfire decisions in the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS).
Cost Threshold Notification of Combined Federal Expenditures for an Incident	The USWFS will not be required to make cost threshold notifications.	Bureaus will no longer be required to make cost threshold notifications within their Bureaus.
Smoke Management	The USWFS will be responsible for monitoring and tracking the impacts from wildland fire smoke. The USWFS will order Air Resource Advisors as determined necessary for wildfires and prescribed fires.	Bureaus will coordinate with the USWFS on community or air quality concerns.
Suppression Repair	The USWFS and Bureaus will jointly be responsible for suppression repair plan development and approval. The USWFS will approve funding suppression repair actions.	The USWFS and Bureaus will jointly be responsible for suppression repair plan development and approval.

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Fire Reports	The USWFS will certify fire reports and will provide final certified reports to the appropriate Bureau(s).	Bureaus will no longer certify fire reports.
Multi-Agency Coordinating (MAC) Group Membership	The USWFS will represent DOI on National MAC, Geographic Area MAC Groups, and local MAC groups.	Bureaus will no longer have members on MAC groups.
Fire Prevention Orders (i.e., Fire Restrictions)	The USWFS will coordinate with Bureaus and Tribes to provide situational awareness or technical information related to fire prevention orders.	Bureaus will continue to issue fire prevention orders for their lands in close coordination with USWFS and interagency partners.
Emergency Area Closures During High Hazard for Safety	The USWFS will coordinate with Bureaus and Tribes to provide situational awareness or technical information related to emergency area closures.	Bureaus will continue to issue area closures for their lands during high fire hazard in close coordination with USWFS and interagency partners.
Wildfire Trespass	<p>USWFS employees that are qualified as Wildland Fire Investigators (INVs) will provide investigation services to the Bureaus.</p> <p>The USWFS will manage current wildfire trespass cases in coordination with Bureaus for cost recovery and records requirements.</p>	<p>Bureau employees, including law enforcement, that are qualified as INVs will continue to provide investigation services to the Bureaus.</p> <p>Bureau authorized officers will determine liability for wildfire trespass with solicitor concurrence.</p> <p>Recovered trespass funds will be deposited into Bureau accounts. If allowable per authority and settlement language, suppression and post-fire recovery costs will be transferred to the USWFS.</p>

Safety

Topic	USWFS Authority/Responsibility	Bureau Authority/Responsibility
Operational Medical Support Program (OMSP)	The USWFS will provide oversight and direction for the OMSP within the USWFS.	Bureaus will no longer provide oversight and direction for the OMSP program.
Designated Agency Safety and Health Official (DASHO)	The USWFS Director has delegated authority from the DOI DASHO to conduct wildland fire accident investigations.	Bureaus will no longer have authority to conduct wildland fire accident investigations.

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Accident Investigations/Reviews	The USWFS will be the deciding official regarding what type of accident investigation is to be used for wildland fire accidents occurring on DOI lands or involving any DOI employee(s) assigned to a wildland fire incident, regardless of land ownership.	Bureaus will continue to be responsible for non-wildland fire accidents occurring on DOI lands or involving DOI employees not assigned to wildland fire incidents.
Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) and Serious Incident or Fatality (SIOF) Plan	The USWFS will follow its own support processes and SIOF plans. The USWFS will work closely with Bureaus on safety-related plans and processes, providing assistance and support during incidents or accidents.	Bureaus will remain responsible for safety-related plans and processes for Bureau resource staff.
Fire Reviews	The USWFS will follow fire reviews requirements outlined in Chapter 18 of <i>the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations</i> (Red Book).	Bureaus will no longer be responsible for fire reviews, although Bureau personnel may be requested to participate during the review process.
Line of Duty Death – Death Gratuity	The USWFS will have the authority to approve payment of up to \$10,000 as a death gratuity to the personal representative of a USWFS employee who dies from an injury sustained in the line of duty on or after August 2, 1990. (Public Law 104-208 Section 651)	Bureaus will continue to have the authority to approve payment of up to \$10,000 to the personal representative of a Bureau employee who dies from an injury sustained in the line of duty on or after August 2, 1990.

Training and Qualifications

Topic	USWFS Authority/Responsibility	Bureau Authority/Responsibility
Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS) Management	The USWFS will manage IQCS for USWFS responders or Tribes (under a DOI 638 and or Cooperative Agreement) The USWFS will manage IQCS Bureau responders with both wildland fire and all-hazard qualifications.	Bureaus will manage IQCS for individuals in their Bureau with <u>only</u> all-hazard qualifications.

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<p>Certify Incident Qualifications</p>	<p>The USWFS will complete agency certification for wildland fire Position Task Books (PTBs) of both USWFS and Bureau personnel.</p> <p>The USWFS will certify Incident Qualification Cards for individuals in the Bureaus and the USWFS that have BOTH wildland fire and all-hazard qualifications.</p> <p>The USWFS will certify all-hazard PTBs for USWFS employees.</p>	<p>Bureaus will no longer complete agency certification on wildland fire PTBs.</p> <p>Bureaus will certify Incident Qualification Cards for Bureau employees with ONLY all-hazard qualifications</p> <p>Bureaus will certify all-hazard PTBs for Bureau employees.</p>
<p>Agency Administrator (AADM) Qualification</p>	<p>USWFS personnel will not need the AADM qualification, defined in the <i>Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement (2026)</i>, to exercise wildland fire authorities as understanding wildland fire is inherent in their position.</p>	<p>Bureaus will no longer require the AADM qualification. The USWFS will work with the Bureaus to provide wildland fire training as requested to support filling the Bureau Representative role on wildland fire.</p>
<p>Wildland Fire Medical Evaluations and Work Capacity Testing</p>	<p>The USWFS will serve as the point of contact for both USWFS, Tribal (under a DOI 638 agreement) and Bureau personnel for medical evaluations and work capacity testing.</p>	<p>Bureaus will coordinate with the USWFS to schedule medical evaluations and work capacity testing.</p>
<p>Wildland Fire Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Wildland Fire Training Costs</p>	<p>The USWFS may provide PPE for Bureau employees who obtain wildland fire qualifications and participate in response efforts. The USWFS may also provide funding to cover wildland fire training and associated travel costs.</p>	<p>Bureaus may request the USWFS to provide PPE and funding for wildland fire training and associated travel. Additionally, Bureaus may purchase PPE and fund training from Bureau allocations.</p>
<p>Wildland Fire Training Nominations and Delivery</p>	<p>The USWFS will plan and coordinate all wildland fire training for USWFS, Tribal (under a DOI 638 agreement) and Bureau personnel.</p>	<p>Bureaus will submit nominations for personnel desiring to attend wildland fire training.</p> <p>Bureaus may coordinate and deliver wildland fire training (e.g., RT-130, S-112) with USWFS approval, based on need and course delivery requirements.</p>
<p>WFDSS Training</p>	<p>The USWFS will design, schedule and deliver WFDSS training for all users.</p>	<p>Bureaus will nominate personnel and attend WFDSS training as needed.</p>