



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

OWF POLICY MEMORANDUM 2014 – 003

SEP 15 2014

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: Jim Douglas, Director – Office of Wildland Fire

Subject: Preliminary Guidance for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Funds Execution Wildland Fire Budget Allocations

Purpose: This memorandum provides the Preliminary DOI Wildland Fire Budget Allocations for FY 2015, for the period beginning October 1, 2014.

Scope: Fire management funded programs and activities in the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the National Park Service (NPS), the Office of Wildland Fire (OWF), and the Department-wide fire activities. This memo includes allocation amounts; provides caution for the potential implications of a 2015 Continuing Resolution (CR); describes carryover policy; describes continued Fuels Management project work under a CR; includes Emergency Stabilization and Severity authority caps; identifies expectations for Fuels Management funding for reserved treaty rights; and outlines limitations to some Department-wide activities.

Time Frame: This Policy Memorandum is effective immediately and remains in effect until rescinded or modified.

Policy: This allocation, with the exception of Preparedness, is based on the levels found in the FY 2015 President's Budget Justification. Enactment of a Continuing Resolution (CR) is expected, beginning October 1, 2014 through December 11, 2014 which will include an across-the-board reduction. The CR is expected to continue funding at FY 2014 levels. The percentage distribution by bureau shown in attachment 1 will be applied to the funds available under a CR.

Standard language include in most CR appropriations state:

“...SEC. 104. Except as otherwise provided in section 102, no appropriation of funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or

resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds or other authority were not available during fiscal year”

Thus, no new programs and activities should be initiated during the period of the CR.

In addition to funding levels provided in the attached table, the following guidance and direction applies:

Preparedness Program: The Preparedness allocation is based on the FY 2014 enacted budget level. New initiatives proposed in the President’s Budget for FY 2015 are not included in these allocations. The proposed Risk Based Wildland Fire Management allocation tool was not used to inform this allocation.

Exclusive use aviation contracts will only be funded with Preparedness funds.

Fuels Program: The Fuels Management program allocation remains at the FY 2014 percentage level for each bureau. This allocation assumes that within the Fuels Management budget \$10 million will be directed to support fuels management activities aimed at fulfilling trust responsibilities on reserved treaty rights lands. This portion of the allocation is directed to the BIA. Prior to obligation of funds for the reserved treaty rights fuels activities, the BIA will provide the Office of Wildland Fire a description of the program of work for how these funds will be distributed and utilized.

Under a CR bureaus are reminded that Fuels Management activities undertaken within the Wildland Fire Management account are ongoing and are not prohibited by the SEC. 104 provision language. Bureaus should take full advantage of opportunities to implement fuels treatments during the period of the CR but should exercise prudence to ensure adequate funding for staff and other program activities throughout the year. Internal management controls for hiring of personnel should be followed.

Resilient Landscapes: The Resilient Landscapes program funding shown in the FY 2015 President’s Budget is a new activity and in accordance with Section 104 of a CR, no funds are allocated.

Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR): The BAR carryover funding in the parent account is estimated at \$2 million. This will be allocated once the Interior Fire Director’s request for FY 2015 BAR projects is submitted and approved.

Suppression Operations: The Suppression Operations funding allocations represent approximately 40 percent of the available funding. Bureaus may identify and request additional allocations once execution reports are available.

Emergency Stabilization (ES) and Severity: Emergency Stabilization and Severity authority levels are capped at ten percent of the ten-year rolling suppression expenditure average for the Department of the Interior. Allocated Severity authority is capped at \$32 million with the residual amount shown as reserve authority.

The distribution of the Department of the Interior ES authority is based on the rolling ten-year average percentage of acres burned by bureau nationally, excluding Alaska.

The distribution of the Department of the Interior Severity authority is based on each bureau's base percentage split of the annual preparedness appropriation. The percentages are: BIA 18.86 percent; BLM 56.28 percent; FWS 11.04 percent; and NPS 13.82 percent.

FY 2015 Authority levels (\$000) are shown below:

Bureau	BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	Reserve	Total
Emergency Stabilization	6,310	27,655	2,676	1,725	-	38,366
Severity	6,035	18,010	3,533	4,422	6,366	38,366

In the event one or more bureaus will exceed their ES or Severity authority, the Office of Wildland Fire, in collaboration with the Interior Fire Directors, will coordinate and approve the redistribution of ES and/or Severity authority between bureaus as warranted. Any recommended cap increases to the Departmental ES or Severity caps are subject to approval by the Director, Office of Wildland Fire in collaboration with the Interior Fire Directors.

Fire Facilities: The Fire Facilities project level descriptions can be found in the FY 2015 Budget Justification. Bureaus should use caution on initiating projects or activities during a CR.

In accordance with Departmental direction, \$183,000 is designated for disposal and consolidation activities that result in cost savings through reduced operations and maintenance or reduction in leased space costs. These funds are allocated to the BLM to be used for preparing for relocation of the Office of Wildland Fire and other offices from leased space to the National Interagency Fire Center.

Department-wide Activities: The LANDFIRE and WFMI projects requested additional funding for new activities in FY 2015. This allocation includes the increased funding however the project leads are to provide a detailed description of the purpose and proposed use of the additional funds to the OWF Director by December 1, 2014. The increased funding should not be obligated prior to an approval from the OWF Director to proceed.

Beginning in FY 2016 the Department-wide Activities will include only those Information and Technology (IT) investments and funding levels approved by the Wildland Fire Information and Technology Executive Board. A single IT investment portfolio will be displayed.

Carryover: The following policies will apply to carry over funds in FY 2015:

- Department-wide Activities: All prior year carryover from Department-wide activities will be identified by bureau/offices and will be used to offset the FY 2015 Department-wide activity funding requirements.
- Preparedness: All operational carryover will remain at the bureau/office to be used for appropriate activities in FY 2015.
- Fuels: All carryover will remain at the bureau/office to be used for appropriate use in FY 2015.
- Suppression Operations: All operational carryover will remain at the bureau/office to be used for appropriate use in FY 2015.
- Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR): Carryover will be applied to new projects; allocations for new projects will show carryover as a portion of total allocation.
- Joint Fire Science: All carryover will remain with the BLM for use by the Joint Fire Science Program Office for appropriate use in the new fiscal year.
- Fire Facilities: Carryover funding is specific to the individual project and is managed by the bureau project by project.
- If there is a need to transfer funds for Suppression funding shortages, OWF will discuss changes to these policies with bureaus and changes will be documented and implemented.

2015 Sequestration or across-the-board-reductions: The CR for FY 2015 is expected to include an across-the-board reduction for all programs. The actual amounts to be absorbed due to any sequester reductions or other across the board reductions is not known. Any such amount in the CR will be applied to the allocations in the attached table.

Contacts: Any questions can be directed to Denise Schmitz, Budget Officer, Office of Wildland Fire at (202) 606-0518.

cc: Interior Fire Executives
Interior Fire Directors

Attachment: DOI FY 2015 Preliminary Allocations

Attachment I

DOI FY 2015 Preliminary Allocations with Service Level Agreements and Dept.-wide activities distributed to sponsoring bureau. (\$000s)

	<i>Preparedness</i>	<i>Suppression</i>	<i>Hazardous Fuels</i>	<i>BAR</i>	<i>Facilities</i>	<i>JFSP</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>BIA</i>	50,554	24,289	37,519	206	1,894		114,462
<i>BLM</i>	162,161	63,434	63,281	222	2,560	5,990	297,648
<i>FWS</i>	26,954	5,930	19,493	186	724		53,287
<i>NPS</i>	34,275	13,772	21,917	281	949		71,194
<i>OWF</i>	5,856	30	3,281	0	0		9,167
<i>Parent</i>	2,128	161,105	796	17,140	0		181,169
<i>Total Estimated Funding</i>	281,928	268,560	146,287	18,035	6,127	5,990	726,927
<i>% Share of Total</i>	38.8%	36.9%	20.1%	2.5%	0.9%	0.8%	100%