



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

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OWF POLICY MEMORANDUM #2015-007

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: Incident Status Summary (ICS-209) Reporting Requirements Greater Sage-grouse Habitat is Burned or Threatened by Wildland Fire

Purpose:

This Policy Memorandum provides Wildland Fire Management Program direction by establishing common Incident Status Summary (NIMS ICS-209) reporting requirements when greater sage-grouse habitat is burned or threatened for wildland fires burning or originating on Department of the Interior bureau managed lands.

Background:

DOI wildland fire management is an integrated program that supports the goals of "*Secretarial Order 3336, Rangeland Fire Prevention, Management and Restoration*" (Order). Wildland fire management works hand-in-hand with resource and land use programs to meet the expected products and timelines to address the specific topics identified in the Order.

The Order requires protection, conservation, and restoration of greater sage-grouse habitat, while maintaining safe and efficient operations. The Order further requires the Department to work cooperatively and collaboratively with other Federal agencies, states, tribes, local stakeholders, and non-governmental organizations on fire management and habitat restoration activities.

Working together, the Department will: (i) Enhance the capability and capacity of state, tribal, and local government, as well as non-governmental, fire management organizations, including rangeland fire protection associations and volunteer fire departments, through improved and expanded education and training; and (ii) Improve coordination among all partners involved in rangeland fire management to further improve safety and effectiveness.

To enhance this cooperation and collaboration it is incumbent upon the Department's wildland fire management program to report when and where greater sage-grouse habitat is burned or threatened from wildland fires burning or originating on Department of the Interior bureau managed lands.

An Incident Status Summary (ICS-209) Report is required for any fire under a full suppression management strategy that exceeds 100 acres in timber (fuel models 8-13), 300 acres in grass and brush (fuel models 1-7), or has a Type 1 or 2 incident management team assigned. (Reporting requirements may be more stringent depending on the Geographic Areas and agencies affected by the fire.) Wildland fires being managed under multiple strategies may, or may not, require an ICS-209 to be submitted daily, depending on the size and complexity of the incident. These fires, however, shall be reported weekly (usually Thursday *) until the fire is contained, unless the Geographic Area Interagency Mobilization Guide specifies more stringent guidelines.

This reporting enables the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) intelligence group to query the ICS-209 records for these key words that can identify threats to greater sage-grouse habitat. This key word search can feed the narrative portions in the Incident Management Situation Report (IMSR). For additional information regarding data entries on the ICS-209 form visit the "Intelligence" page of the NICC web site:

<http://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/intelligence/intelligence.htm>

Scope:

This Policy Memorandum applies to all wildland fires involving lands managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation. The intent of this reporting requirement is to ensure compliance and accountability with direction provided in the Order.

Time Frame:

This Policy Memorandum is effective immediately and remains in effect until rescinded or superseded.

Policy:

The Department will use the common Incident Status Summary (ICS-209) Report within the National Intelligence Operations SIT-209 program when a wildland fire meets NICC ICS-209 reporting thresholds and will report greater sage-grouse habitat is burned or threatened as identified on the current spatial greater sage-grouse habitat layers. The current habitat data and maps are available at: (<http://www.nifc.gov/fireandsagegrouse/maps.html>).

1. In Block 30, "Damage Assessment Information," document greater sage-grouse habitat burned in the text box. This is no different from summarizing damage and/or restriction of use/availability to residential/commercial property, natural resources, critical infrastructure and key resources, and so forth. It should be worded: Sage-grouse habitat burned (note the hyphen).

2. In Block 38, "Current Incident Threat Summary and Risk Information in the 12-24-48-72 hour time frames and beyond," it is very important to described greater sage-grouse habitat threatened within the summary/narrative section. This is no different than describing significant threats to communities, critical infrastructure, natural and cultural resources such as timber, wildlife habitat, watershed, agricultural areas, endangered species, historical resources, or other valuable resources. It should be worded: Sage-grouse habitat threatened (note the hyphen).

Contacts: Richard (Dick) Bahr, Deputy Director for Management and Programs, Office of Wildland Fire, 208-334-1550