



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

February 12, 2021

## OWF POLICY MEMORANDUM 2021-003

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: Jeff Rupert, Director – Office of Wildland Fire

Subject: Additional Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2021 to Support  
Firefighters Workforce Transformation and an Effective Fuels Management  
Program

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**Purpose:** This memorandum provides information and guidance on additional budget allocations for the Department of the Interior (DOI) Wildland Fire Management (WFM) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021. These allocations are intended to support *DOI's Plan to Transform the Firefighting Workforce* and/or increased project funding, based on each bureau's requirements to implement an effective Fuels Management program.

**Scope:** This memorandum provides additional budget allocation amounts totaling \$14.5 million for WFM-funded programs and activities of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the National Park Service (NPS). This memorandum supplements the guidance that OWF provided on January 26, 2021, in OWF Policy Memorandum 2021-002.

**Time Frame:** The allocations discussed in Policy Memorandum 2021-002 and this memorandum are for FY 2021, which began October 1, 2020, and will end September 30, 2021. This memorandum is effective immediately, and it will remain in effect unless and until it is rescinded or modified.

**Policy:** New budget allocation amounts for FY 2021 are summarized below. OWF will notify the bureaus of Treasury transaction numbers once the transfers are completed.

These new allocations reflect the following agreements and decisions:

### DOI'S PLAN TO TRANSFORM THE FIREFIGHTING WORKFORCE

The FY 2021 President’s Budget proposed \$50 million for *DOI’s Plan to Transform the Firefighting Workforce*: \$28 million in Preparedness and \$22 million in Fuels Management. In addition, in March 2020, OWF and the bureaus identified \$14.5 million of existing Fuels Management funding that could be realigned from special initiative funding to new base funding to adaptively support individual bureau priority needs. The following table summarizes the consensus agreement proposed for FY 2021:

<b>Original Consensus Agreement/Proposal for FY 2021</b>			
	<b>FY 2021 President’s Budget: Workforce Transformation</b>		<b>New Base Funding</b>
	<i>Preparedness</i>	<i>Fuels Management</i>	<i>Fuels Management</i>
BIA	\$1,886,889	\$3,857,534	\$2,542,466
BLM	\$19,000,000	\$8,698,740	\$5,733,260
FWS	\$3,500,000	\$5,721,205	\$3,770,795
NPS	\$3,613,111	\$3,722,521	\$2,453,479
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,000,000</b>	<b>\$22,000,000</b>	<b>\$14,500,000</b>

### **ENACTED FUNDING FOR WORKFORCE TRANSFORMATION**

Public Law (P.L.) 116-260, *The FY 2021 Omnibus and COVID Relief and Response Act*, provided \$29 million of the \$50 million request for workforce transformation. The appropriation includes the full Fuels Management portion of the request (\$22 million) but only 25 percent (\$7 million) of the Preparedness request. OWF Policy Memorandum 2021-002 documented allocation of the same amounts for Fuels Management identified in the original proposal and the same *proportion* of funding per bureau for Preparedness as in the original proposal.

### **NEW ALLOCATIONS FOR FUELS MANAGEMENT**

Consistent with the allocation methodology used for the workforce transformation funding of \$29 million, the \$14.5 million in new base funding will be distributed based on the amounts identified through the consensus agreement developed for *DOI’s Plan to Transform the Firefighting Workforce*. Bureaus are authorized to use this funding, identified as New Base Funding, to support additional workforce capacity, consistent with bureau workforce implementation plans, or increase project funding, based on individual bureau requirements to implement an effective Fuels Management program. The following table summarizes the workforce transformation and new fuels management allocations:

FY 2021 Allocations (amounts rounded to the nearest \$000)			
	FY 2021 Enacted: Workforce Transformation		New Base Funding
	<i>Preparedness</i>	<i>Fuels Management</i>	<i>Fuels Management</i>
BIA	\$472,000	\$3,857,000	\$2,542,000
BLM	\$4,750,000	\$8,699,000	\$5,733,000
FWS	\$875,000	\$5,721,000	\$3,771,000
NPS	\$903,000	\$3,723,000	\$2,454,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,000,000</b>	<b>\$22,000,000</b>	<b>\$14,500,000</b>

\$1.0 million remains reserved in the Parent account. Attachment 1 provides the updated funding levels of the FY 2021 Fuels Management Allocation.

### **NEXT STEPS**

OWF will coordinate with all bureaus to adjust and update workforce implementation plans based on these updated allocation amounts. In addition, OWF and the bureaus will continue collaborating with DOI's Office of Human Capital to track, monitor, and report on the progress of this high-priority initiative. Execution will be phased and prioritized based on the level, type, and complexity of human resource actions required for each bureau.

The deadline for submitting final FY 2021 Fuels Management spend plans is extended to March 5, 2021, to allow bureaus to include these new allocations. Bureaus are expected to utilize the funding for this initiative to diversify the WFM workforce and address DOI's core workforce principles.

**Contacts:** You may direct questions regarding this Policy Memorandum to Stephen Elmore (Budget Officer, OWF; 202-641-7521), or Craig Leff (Deputy Director, OWF; 202-606-3053).

cc: Interior Fire Executives  
Interior Fire Directors

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – FY 2021 Fuels Management Allocation