



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

MAY 15, 2017

OWF POLICY MEMORANDUM 2017-001

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

From: Bryan Rice, Director – Office of Wildland Fire

Subject: Final Guidance for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Funds Execution and Wildland Fire Budget Allocations

Purpose: This memorandum provides the DOI Wildland Fire Management budget allocations based on the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017, Public Law (P.L.) 115-31. On May 5, 2017, Congress passed P.L. 115-31 authorizing appropriations through September 30, 2017. The Act provides funding for an annual appropriation.

Scope: This memo outlines budget allocation amounts for 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 memorandum supplements previously issued FY 2017 budget guidance provided in OWF Policy Memorandum 2016-016.

Time Frame: P.L. 115-31 covers FY 2017 from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017. This Policy Memorandum is effective immediately and remains in effect until rescinded or modified.

Policy: Bureau allocation amounts for the fiscal year are outlined in Attachment 1. Transfers of funds for the balance of the fiscal year are in progress; OWF will notify bureaus of the Treasury transaction numbers once completed.

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

Risk-Based Wildland Fire Management (RBWFM): Based on the Deputy Secretary's memo *Revision to October 20, 2016 memorandum: Risk-Based Wildland Fire Funding Allocation – 2017-2019 Preparedness and Fuels Management Accounts*, dated October 25, 2016, bureau allocations for Preparedness and Fuels Management are made in accordance with agreed upon adjustments and direct base funding percentages.

Preparedness: Within the Preparedness Program, \$62.6 million is allocated for Department-wide activities and designated funding. This includes such items as exclusive use aviation services; IT systems supporting wildland fire management; BIA Tribal contract and support; BIA workforce development; and other business services.

Fuels Management: Within the Fuels Management Program, \$24.7 million is allocated for Department-wide activities and designated funding. This includes such items as IT systems supporting fuels management activities; Resilient Landscapes projects; BIA support for fuels management activities aimed at fulfilling trust responsibilities on Reserved Treaty Rights Lands (RTRL); and other business services. Out of the \$10 million increase received, \$1 million is transferred to the BLM in accordance with the RBWFM policy.

Resilient Landscapes: Resilient Landscapes activities are funded through the Fuels Management program. \$10 million has been allocated for the Resilient Landscapes projects and included in the Fuels Management funding allocation. Detail project information for Resilient Landscapes funding allocation are shown below:

Resilient Landscape Collaboratives FY2017 Full Year Funding Level (\$10M)	BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	Total
Bi-State		\$740,000			\$740,000
Bruneau-Owyhee		\$300,000			\$300,000
Grants Grove Peninsula				\$309,000	\$309,000
Greater Sheldon Hart Mountain	\$40,220	\$645,538	\$315,242		\$1,001,000
Longleaf Pine-South Atlantic		\$40,000	\$891,000	\$90,000	\$1,021,000
Santa Clara Pueblo	\$800,000				\$800,000
Southern Arizona	\$55,000	\$25,000		\$265,000	\$345,000
Southern Utah (Utah Southern)		\$3,218,000			\$3,218,000
Southwest Colorado		\$1,076,100	\$150,000	\$39,900	\$1,266,000
Valles Caldera				\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
TOTAL	\$895,220	\$6,044,638	\$1,356,242	\$1,703,900	\$10,000,000

Suppression Operations: The Suppression Operations funding allocations represent approximately 40 percent of the Enacted Suppression funding level. The basis for allocation is the percent share each bureau has of the ten-year rolling average. The remaining 60 percent is held in the Parent account. As in previous years, the remaining suppression funding will be allocated based on seasonal activity. Bureaus may identify and request additional allocations, as the need arises.

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.

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.

Allocated Severity authority is capped at \$32 million with the residual amount shown as reserve authority. 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 18.48 percent; BLM 57.24 percent; FWS 10.78 percent; and NPS 13.50 percent.

FY 2017 Funding Authority levels (\$000) are shown below:

Bureau	BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	Reserve	Total
Emergency Stabilization	6,457	26,855	3,612	2,542	4	39,470
Severity	5,913	18,317	3,450	4,320	7,470	39,470

In the event one or more bureaus 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.

Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR): BAR allocation for current year funding is based on historical acres burned outside of Alaska. Each bureau is expected to prioritize and allocate BAR project funding using their own bureau-specific criteria, in accordance with overall Departmental principles and guidelines. See guidance in the Carryover section below for further guidance on the use of BAR funds.

Facilities: The Fire Facilities project level descriptions can be found in the FY 2017 Budget Justification, with an updated maintenance plan summary included in the DOI spreadsheet v43. The \$8.427 million in enacted funding will fully fund 13 projects; in addition, \$303,000 is allocated for Architectural and Engineering Design.

Department-wide Activities: All Information Technology (IT) projects shown in the Department-wide activities list were reviewed by the Fire Management Board. After adjustment, based on the Deputy Secretary's memo *Revision to October 20, 2016 memorandum: Risk-Based Wildland Fire Funding Allocation – 2017-2019 Preparedness and Fuels Management Accounts*, dated October 25, 2016, these projects will be funded as represented on the Department-wide activities list included in the DOI spreadsheet v43. The WFIT Program Manager, in consultation with the Program Board and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), will prioritize the strategic enterprise portfolio and plan for a FY 2018 reduction of 15% from FY 2017 levels with

a goal savings of 25% by FY 2020. The WFIT Program Manager will present the portfolio request at the July FMB.

Carryover: OWF will be taking a comprehensive look at undelivered orders (UDOs) and existing carryover policy for each activity to make sure that Wildland Fire Management funds are being used in the most efficient way possible so as to maximize DOI's performance and accountability. The following policies will apply to carryover funds in FY 2017:

- **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 2017 Department-wide activity funding requirements. This analysis was conducted early in the fiscal year and adjustments have been made as appropriate.
- **Suppression Operations:** All operational carryover will remain at the bureau/office to be used as appropriate in FY 2017.
- **Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR):** Utilization of BAR carryover remains suspended until further notice. OWF will work with all bureaus to examine existing carryover balances in the BAR accounts that may be used to assist the Tribal communities in the Pacific Northwest.
- **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 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.

Other guidance:

- A Final Program of Work (FPOW), indicated by "National Approval", is expected to be entered into the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS) by June 9, 2017.
- Please keep in mind the lead times required for the procurement of goods and services associated with bureau fire-related project work.

Contacts: Any questions can be directed to Thao Tran, Budget Officer, Office of Wildland Fire at (202) 606-0518, or Craig Leff, Deputy Director, Office of Wildland Fire, at (202) 606-3053.

cc: Interior Fire Executives
Interior Fire Directors

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – DOI FY 2017 Annual Allocation

Attachment 1 – DOI FY 2017 Annual Allocation

Funding shown in thousands (\$000)

DOI FY 2017 Allocations

			Fire Risk Management		Other Operations				
				[Resilient Landscapes] within Fuels Mgmt					
	Preparedness	Suppression	Fuels Management		BAR	Facilities	JFSP	Total	% Share
Department-wide Activities	\$ 62,609		\$ 14,745	\$ 10,000	\$ 905		\$ 5,990	\$ 94,249	10.0%
BLM	\$ 49,049	\$ 35,724	\$ 30,837		\$ 4,345	\$ 1,660		\$ 121,615	12.9%
BLM	\$ 152,308	\$ 93,299	\$ 82,175		\$ 12,447	\$ 5,012		\$ 345,241	36.6%
FWS	\$ 28,591	\$ 8,722	\$ 19,485		\$ 1,546	\$ 674		\$ 59,018	6.3%
NPS	\$ 35,916	\$ 20,256	\$ 22,122		\$ 1,227	\$ 1,081		\$ 80,602	8.6%
OWF	\$ 4,311	\$ 19	\$ 636					\$ 4,966	0.5%
Parent		\$ 236,980				\$ -		\$ 236,980	25.1%
Total Estimated Funding	\$ 332,784	\$ 395,000	\$ 170,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,470	\$ 8,427	\$ 5,990	\$ 942,671	100%
% Share of Total	35.3%	41.9%	18.0%	1.1%	2.2%	0.9%	0.6%	100%	

Bureau shares shown above are before the Service-level agreements are distributed

DOI FY 2017 Allocations after Service Level Agreements & Distribution of Dept.-wide Activities to Sponsoring Bureau

			Fire Risk Management		Other Operations				
				[Resilient Landscapes] within Fuels Mgmt					
	Preparedness	Suppression	Fuels Management		BAR	Facilities	JFSP	Total	% Share
BLM	\$ 67,032	\$ 35,724	\$ 40,809	\$ 895	\$ 4,544	\$ 1,660		\$ 150,664	16.0%
BLM	\$ 188,663	\$ 93,299	\$ 82,713	\$ 6,045	\$ 12,676	\$ 5,012	\$ 5,990	\$ 394,398	41.8%
FWS	\$ 28,245	\$ 8,722	\$ 19,467	\$ 1,356	\$ 1,724	\$ 674		\$ 60,188	6.4%
NPS	\$ 38,660	\$ 20,256	\$ 22,393	\$ 1,704	\$ 1,526	\$ 1,081		\$ 85,620	9.1%
OWF	\$ 7,847	\$ 19	\$ 3,896	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 11,762	1.2%
Parent	\$ 2,337	\$ 236,980	\$ 722	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 240,039	25.5%
Total Estimated Funding	\$ 332,784	\$ 395,000	\$ 170,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,470	\$ 8,427	\$ 5,990	\$ 942,671	100%
% Share of Total	35.3%	41.9%	18.0%	1.1%	2.2%	0.9%	0.6%	100%	