



## **Department of the Interior**

### **Wildland Fire Management**

#### **Implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law**

##### **Initial Spend Plan**

President Biden signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law on November 15, 2021, making this once-in-a-generation investment in the Nation’s infrastructure and economic competitiveness a reality. This landmark investment will rebuild America’s critical infrastructure, tackle the climate crisis, advance environmental justice, and drive the creation of good-paying union jobs. By addressing long overdue improvements and strengthening our resilience to the changing climate, this investment in our communities across the country will grow the economy sustainably and equitably so everyone gets ahead for decades to come.

This spend plan responds to a requirement in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Public Law - 117-58), which states:

“Sec. 601. Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations a detailed spend plan for the funds provided to the Department of the Interior in this title in this Act for fiscal year 2022, and for each fiscal year through 2026, as part of the annual budget submission of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit a detailed spend plan for the funds provided to the Department of the Interior in this title in this Act for that fiscal year.”

The Department of the Interior will receive \$30.6 billion over five years in direct funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, including nearly \$1.5 billion for Wildland Fire Management. The Department of the Interior will stand up new programs and expand existing work to deliver results by boosting local economies, building resilience to the devastating effects of drought and wildfires, putting Americans to work to reclaim abandoned coal mine sites and plug orphaned oil and gas wells, restoring important ecosystems and watersheds, strengthening Tribal water infrastructure and climate resilience, and identifying domestic supplies of mineral resources needed to advance new technologies.

The Department of the Interior will execute these investments adhering to the Administration’s implementation priorities to:

- invest public dollars efficiently, working to avoid waste, and focus on measurable outcomes for the American people;



- increase the competitiveness of the United States economy, including through implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law’s Made-in-America requirements and bolstering U.S. manufacturing and supply chains;
- improve job opportunities for millions of Americans by focusing on high labor standards for these jobs, including prevailing wages and the free and fair chance to join a union;
- invest public dollars equitably, including through the Justice40 Initiative, which is a Government-wide effort toward a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits from Federal investments in climate and clean energy flow to disadvantaged communities;
- build infrastructure that is resilient and that helps combat the crisis of climate change, and where feasible leverage funding to sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- effectively coordinate with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments in implementing these critical investments.

## **Wildland Fire Management Funding Summary**

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provides a total of nearly \$1.5 billion to DOI for the Wildland Fire Management (WFM) programs and activities shown in the table below. Specifically, Division J appropriates \$1,458,000,000. This funding is provided as emergency appropriations and is available for obligation until expended. Division J further specifies in which fiscal year (FY) amounts become available for obligation from FY 2022-FY 2026, as reflected in the table below. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service received complementary appropriations for wildland fire management, and the two agencies are collaborating on and coordinating implementation of the BIL.

		Wildland Fire Management Total Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding Budget Authority					
(\$ in 000s)		FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	Total
<b>Preparedness</b>							
Firefighter Salaries and Expenses	Workforce Reform	33,963	18,047	18,047	18,047	18,046	106,150
Preparedness	Other Preparedness	39,319	22,739	22,739	22,739	22,739	130,275
Preparedness	Administration	2,278	1,268	1,268	1,268	1,268	7,350
Office of the Inspector General	Directed Transfer	380	211	211	211	212	1,225
Preparedness, Total		75,940	42,265	42,265	42,265	42,265	245,000
<b>Fuels Management</b>							
Fuels Management	Fuels Management	243,726	150,886	150,886	150,886	150,886	847,270
Fuels Management	Administration	7,572	4,692	4,692	4,692	4,692	26,340
Office of the Inspector General	Directed Transfer	1,262	782	782	782	782	4,390
Fuels Management, Total		252,560	156,360	156,360	156,360	156,360	878,000
<b>Burned Area Rehabilitation</b>							
Burned Area Rehabilitation	Burned Area Rehabilitation	73,353	60,068	60,068	60,068	60,068	313,625
Burned Area Rehabilitation	Administration	2,280	1,868	1,868	1,867	1,867	9,750
Office of the Inspector General	Directed Transfer	367	315	315	314	314	1,625
Burned Area Rehabilitation, Total		76,000	62,251	62,251	62,249	62,249	325,000
<b>Joint Fire Science</b>							
Fire Science Projects	Joint Fire Science Program	2,987	1,666	1,665	1,666	1,666	9,650
Joint Fire Science Program	Administration	93	51	52	52	52	300
Office of the Inspector General	Directed Transfer	20	7	7	8	8	50
Joint Fire Science, Total		3,100	1,724	1,724	1,726	1,726	10,000
<b>Wildland Fire Management, Total</b>		<b>407,600</b>	<b>262,600</b>	<b>262,600</b>	<b>262,600</b>	<b>262,600</b>	<b>1,458,000</b>



Funding in the BIL for DOI WFM is intended to strengthen the resilience of communities and ecosystems to the threat of wildfire by making historic investments in forest and rangeland restoration, hazardous fuels management, science, technology to improve the early detection of wildfires, and post-wildfire restoration activities; and by investing in Federal wildland firefighters. Following is a summary of the appropriations provided in the BIL and authorized purposes in Division D, Section 40803. These appropriations are in addition to annual appropriations and other supplemental funding (e.g., Public Law 117-43) for DOI WFM.

**Preparedness – Workforce Reform:** The BIL provides \$120.0 million over five years to increase the compensation of Federal wildland firefighters, convert more firefighters to permanent, year-round employment, and support the health and safety of firefighters. The law directs DOI and USDA Forest Service to increase compensation for firefighters in some geographic areas and to work with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to establish a wildland firefighter occupational series. Further, DOI and USDA Forest Service are required to establish mitigation strategies for line-of-duty environmental hazards and firefighters’ mental health.

**Other Preparedness:** The law provides another \$125.0 million over five years for other activities that will increase America’s preparedness to respond to wildland fire. They include support for workshops and training for firefighters, equipment, satellite detection and reporting, and wildfire detection and monitoring, and a pilot program to support Tribal Nations and local governments in wildfire response.

**Fuels Management:** The law provides \$878.0 million over five years to plan and implement fuels management. This work will protect vulnerable communities from wildfire while preparing our natural landscapes for a changing climate. The law’s funding is intended to support mechanical thinning; prescribed fire; employing contractors, young adults, veterans, and Tribal Nations’ youth; and other fuels management.

**Burned Area Rehabilitation:** The law provides \$325.0 million over five years to complete post-fire restoration activities. These actions help mitigate the damaging effects of wildfires and set landscapes on a path towards natural recovery and climate resilience.

**Joint Fire Science Program:** The law provides \$10.0 million to DOI over five years to study and research wildland fire through the Joint Fire Science Program, which DOI and USDA jointly administer. The program will use the funding to conduct research on climate change interactions, smoke management concerns, impacts on diverse populations, and management actions that will make ecosystems more wildfire and drought resistant.

**Funding for the Office of the Inspector General and Administration:** The BIL requires that 0.5 percent of the appropriations be transferred to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and provides that DOI may use up to 3.0 percent of the appropriations for “salaries, expenses, and administration.” These amounts are reflected in the table on page 2.



## **Wildland Fire Management Implementation Strategy**

### **Program Governance Structure**

The Senior Counselor to the Secretary and Director, Office of Wildland Fire (OWF), are leading DOI's implementation of the BIL's WFM provisions. Within the WFM program, OWF is working with the Interior Fire Executive Council (IFEC) and WFM bureau directors and staff to implement the law.

### **Setting Priorities and Establishing Criteria**

IFEC, WFM bureau directors and staff, OWF's Deputy Directors, and OWF subject matter experts are examining DOI's responsibilities and funding opportunities and developing plans for near-term implementation and long-term administration of the law's provisions for WFM. DOI WFM is also collaborating and coordinating with USDA Forest Service. To date, OWF and the WFM program have begun building an initial roadmap that covers coordination points, reporting requirements, and milestones. In addition, OWF is hiring a Program Manager position that will oversee implementation and coordination of the law in DOI WFM (in coordination with IFEC and the WFM bureaus), and with USDA Forest Service.

IFEC and OWF are coordinating a multi-phase, multi-year approach to support implementation. For example, currently, the WFM program is working through DOI's Federal Consulting Group to undertake a Wildland Fire Workforce Assessment for a comprehensive view of staffing patterns, pay and compensation, and demographics of the current workforce. This assessment includes consultation with all of DOI's WFM bureaus and OWF. In addition, DOI WFM is engaging with USDA Forest Service and OPM through working groups on wildland firefighter job classification, pay and compensation, and health and retirement benefits.

DOI will collaborate and coordinate with a wide range of wildland fire management partners in implementing the law's provisions. Some of these engagements are specified in the law. Key partners within the Federal government include USDA Forest Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)/Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Office of Management and Budget, OPM, NOAA/DOC, the White House Wildfire Resiliency Interagency Working Group, and the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission established in Division G, Section 70203. Key intergovernmental partners include States, local communities, and Tribal Nations. Other important wildland fire partners include private-sector firms and non-profit organizations.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

DOI and USDA Forest Service will establish a monitoring, maintenance, and treatment plan by March 14, 2022, as required by the BIL ("not later than 120 days after the date of enactment"). This plan will describe activities the two agencies will take to reduce wildfire risk by conducting restoration treatments and improving the Fire Regime Condition Class of 10,000,000 acres of Federal and Tribal land identified as having very high wildfire hazard potential by September 30, 2027 (not including annual treatments otherwise scheduled). The plan also will establish a prioritization process for treatments in areas of highest risk of catastrophic wildfire and will follow the fuels management criteria outlined in the BIL. Further,



the plan will leverage public-private partnerships, shared stewardship agreements, good neighbor agreements, and similar contracting authorities; and reflect the use of laws, processes, and flexibilities to coordinate projects.

Within five years of enactment (i.e., November 15, 2026), the two departments must—in coordination with States, local governments, and Tribal Nations—publish a long-term, outcome-based monitoring, maintenance, and treatment strategy to reduce wildfire risk.

### **Timeline for Implementation – FY 2022 and Later Years**

Currently, DOI is beginning implementation planning for all aspects of the law through work of OWF, the WFM program, and its partners, including USDA Forest Service and OPM, as noted above. Key efforts to date have included establishing interagency workforce working groups and contracting for a workforce assessment (see below for more information).

The law establishes several deadlines that will serve as milestones for implementation, including the following:

- Beginning October 1, 2021 (no deadline for completion set in the law): DOI and USDA Forest Service will:
  - Seek to convert not fewer than 1,000 seasonal wildland firefighting positions to permanent year-round positions that are full-time and reduce hazardous fuels on Federal land not fewer than 800 hours per year (each position); and
  - Increase the salary of wildland firefighters by an amount equal to the lesser of \$20,000 or 50 percent of base salary if the DOI and USDA Secretaries and the OPM Director determine that a position is in a geographic area where it is difficult to recruit or retain Federal wildland firefighters.
- Mid-December 2021: DOI, USDA, and DHS (through the FEMA Administrator) jointly established a Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission to (1) study and make recommendations on preventing, mitigating, suppressing, and managing wildland fires, and (2) rehabilitate land devastated by wildfires. The Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the FEMA Administrator serve as co-chairs, and other Commission members will be appointed. The Commission will issue a report within one year of the first Commission meeting.
- March 14, 2022 (120 days post-enactment): DOI and USDA Forest Service will establish a five-year monitoring, maintenance, and treatment plan.
- May 13, 2022 (180 days post-enactment): DOI and USDA Forest Service will develop a distinct wildland firefighter job series, in coordination with OPM.



- Annually December 31, 2022-2026: DOI and USDA Forest Service will submit a report to Congress on the number of acres of land on which projects carried out using the BIL's treatment funds improved the Fire Regime Condition Class of the land.
- October 1, 2022: DOI and USDA Forest Service will develop and adhere to recommendations for mitigation strategies for wildland firefighters to minimize exposure to line-of-duty environmental hazards; and to recognize and address mental health needs, including post-traumatic stress disorder care.
- November 15, 2026: DOI and USDA Forest Service will publish a long-term, outcome-based monitoring, maintenance, and treatment strategy.
- September 30, 2027: By no later than this date, DOI and USDA will conduct restoration treatments and improve the Fire Regime Condition Class of 10,000,000 acres of Federal or Tribal lands identified as having a very high wildfire risk potential and that are located in the wildland-urban interface or a public drinking water source area.

### **Administration**

OWF will leverage its existing financial structure to track administrative costs consistent with the requirements in the BIL and any subsequent Departmental direction.

### **Preparedness**

#### **Program Managers**

Director, OWF

Program Manager, Wildland Fire Risk Reduction Coordinator

Program Manager, Risk and Infrastructure Implementation, OWF

OWF Deputy Directors and Staff

WFM Bureau Executives and Directors

#### **Program Description and Objectives**

The WFM Preparedness program provides an integrated and coordinated framework for wildfire response. Preparedness funds the core firefighting resources and allows OWF and the WFM bureaus to manage the capacity of assets and operations to respond to fire activities across the United States. DOI WFM's Preparedness program funds firefighting assets such as aviation resources, engines, and equipment, along with firefighters and services that provide the capacity to fight wildfires safely and effectively. DOI shares fire resources at all levels of government across the country. Through national interagency coordination and collaboration, assets are available at the national, regional, Tribal, or local level depending on need. Maximizing the mobility of these resources increases efficiency by lowering costs and reducing the potential for duplicating the deployment of valuable firefighting assets.





The BIL's funds for Preparedness activities will be allocated through the DOI WFM account to implement the law's priority work, leverage contracts and agreements, and provide job opportunities for youth, Tribal Nations, and veterans.

### **Implementation Strategy**

DOI WFM will coordinate a multi-phase approach to support implementation of the law's firefighter workforce and broader preparedness provisions.

- **Workforce and Compensation**
  - Workforce Reform: The BIL provides DOI a total of \$120.0 million over five years for firefighters' compensation, position conversions, and health and safety. DOI will work with USDA Forest Service on strategies to increase firefighters' compensation; convert hundreds more firefighters to full-year, permanent positions; and address firefighters' mental health needs.
  - Workforce Assessment: Human capital is the most important investment for effective wildland fire management. Prior to enactment of the BIL, DOI decided to undertake an assessment of the wildland fire management workforce. This assessment will be valuable in implementing the BIL. DOI's Federal Consulting Group, which is assisting the WFM program, has contracted for a Wildland Fire Workforce Assessment that will serve as baseline information about wildland fire personnel, including geographic location, pay and compensation, diversity, classification, and other factors to inform the determination of sustainable and effective workforce capacity needs. The assessment will be delivered to DOI by May 31, 2022.
  - Coordinated, Interagency Workforce Working Groups: To lead toward the establishment of a wildland firefighter series (deadline 180 days: May 13, 2022), DOI is participating in interagency working groups with OPM and USDA Forest Service to review the current classification series of wildland fire personnel. In addition to position classification and job series, these groups are also evaluating pay, compensation, and other benefits.
  - Compensation Increases for 2022: On June 30, 2021, the President announced compensation increases and retention incentives for the lowest-paid wildland firefighters. These increases were implemented over the summer for a six-month period covering through December 31, 2021. For 2022, DOI and USDA Forest Service issued guidance that no firefighter should be hired at a salary of less than \$15 per hour. Subsequently, OPM issued guidance that applies to positions governmentwide. DOI and USDA Forest Service are coordinating with OPM on an analysis to propose a special rate request for firefighters.



- Pre-Planning Fire Response Workshops and Training: DOI and USDA Forest Service, in coordination with stakeholders, will hold workshops and training for staff, non-Federal firefighters, and Tribal fire crews to effectively respond to wildfires and assist in increasing the pace and scale of vegetation treatments. The plan is for USDA Forest Service to lead on pre-planning fire response workshops that develop potential operational delineations and select potential control locations, and for DOI to lead on wildland firefighter training.
- **Equipment and Technology**
  - Satellite Detection and Reporting of Wildfires: DOI and USDA Forest Service will jointly undertake an agreement with NOAA/DOC to establish and operate a program that makes use of geospatial information to rapidly detect and report wildfire starts in geographic areas for which either DOI or USDA is financially responsible for wildland fire protection and prevention. DOI and USDA will determine whether an Interagency Agreement is the appropriate mechanism for implementing this provision and, if so, which department will prepare the agreement.
  - Radio Interoperability of Incident Management Teams: DOI will determine the most appropriate method to acquire technology for each Type 1 and Type 2 incident management team to maintain interoperability with respect to the radio frequencies used by any responding agency. DOI plans to consult with USDA Forest Service and other partners.
  - Pilot Program for Slip-On Tanker Units: DOI will work with stakeholders to develop and implement a pilot program to provide local governments and Tribal Nations financial assistance to acquire slip-on tanker units to establish fleets of vehicles that can be quickly converted to be operated as fire engines.
  - Wildfire Detection and Monitoring Equipment: DOI will work with partners to procure and place real-time wildfire detection and monitoring equipment such as sensors, cameras, and other equipment in areas at risk of wildfire or in areas undergoing post-fire rehabilitation.

## **Performance**

For Preparedness, a primary focus of the BIL is the firefighting workforce. DOI will measure and monitor progress by (a) tracking conversions to permanent DOI positions among the 1,000 (or more) Federal positions required by the law; and (b) once OPM has the requisite new firefighter occupational series in place, tracking conversions and hires into the new series.





## **Fuels Management**

### **Program Managers**

Director, OWF

Program Manager, Wildland Fire Risk Reduction Coordinator

Program Manager, Risk and Infrastructure Implementation, OWF

OWF Deputy Directors and Staff

WFM Bureau Executives and Directors

### **Program Description and Objectives**

The strategic management of burnable vegetation (known as “fuels”) before a wildfire is an effective approach to reduce the negative effects from wildfires to highly valuable resources and assets. DOI has an existing program to manage fuels in collaboration with multiple partners, including USDA Forest Service, other Federal agencies, Tribal Nations, States, counties, local organizations, and private landowners. Bureau specialists plan, implement, and monitor fuels management projects to mitigate wildfire risk and achieve priority land management objectives. This work occurs year-round. It encompasses a diversity of geographic locations, vegetation types, and treatment methods.

DOI will allocate the BIL’s Fuels Management funds (including thinning, prescribed fire, and fuel breaks) through the WFM bureaus to carry out priority work on Federal and Tribal lands. DOI will leverage contracts and agreements to carry out portions of this work—providing job opportunities for youth, Tribal Nations, and veterans.

### **Implementation Strategy**

DOI Fuels Management program will initially rely on the WFM bureaus’ existing three-year programs of work to identify projects consistent with the law’s requirements. DOI will use the following criteria identified in the BIL to prioritize funding for projects that:

- 1) Already have completed National Environmental Policy Act compliance;
- 2) Reduce the likelihood of experiencing uncharacteristically severe effects from a potential wildfire by focusing on areas strategically important for reducing the risks associated with wildfires;
- 3) Maximize the retention of large trees to promote fire-resilient stands;
- 4) Do not include the establishment of permanent roads;
- 5) Would commit funding to decommission all temporary roads constructed to carry out the project; and
- 6) Fully maintain or contribute toward the restoration of the structure and composition of old growth stands consistent with the characteristics of that forest type, taking into account the contribution of the old growth stand to landscape fire adaption and watershed health, unless the old growth stand is part of a science-based ecological restoration project authorized by the Secretary concerned that meets applicable protection and old growth enhancement objectives, as determined by the Secretary concerned.



DOI will collaborate across boundaries through new and existing partnerships with States, Tribal Nations, and local communities to implement these provisions of the BIL. Up to \$2.0 million is authorized annually through FY 2026 for implementing the Tribal Forestry Protection Act. DOI will consult and work with Tribal Nations on all aspects of the BIL's wildland fire management provisions. The WFM program will closely coordinate its work with USDA Forest Service (which also received funding for these purposes), the DOI resource management programs, and other stakeholders to leverage the law's complementary funding for cross-boundary ecosystem restoration.

To facilitate this coordination, DOI WFM will collaborate with these partners to develop a geospatial tool that supports and leverages local prioritization of fuels management projects; exploration of partners' planned and completed treatment areas; tracking of proposed, approved, and accomplished work; and visualization of effectiveness. This tool will improve organizations' abilities to plan, prioritize, and carry out fuels management projects in ways that facilitate cross-jurisdictional collaborative action, increase transparency and trust, inform proactive decision-making, and help tell the story of shared wildfire risk across the country.

### **Performance**

Fuels Management effects may take several years to become apparent and measurable. In the near-term, the best indicators of progress will include substantially increased work accomplishment (e.g., number of projects and acres treated). DOI will coordinate with USDA Forest Service to measure progress on restoration treatments and improvement efforts among the 10,000,000 acres required by the law; the locations and objectives of the accomplished work; the nature and amount of collaboration in planning and conducting the work; and extension of current monitoring of wildfire-treatment interactions to the additional work produced under the BIL. The DOI WFM program has existing systems and processes to track achievements.

The law will greatly expand the extent of work accomplished. Consequently, DOI will also pursue increased strategic use of remote sensing technology and geospatial analysis to help support efficient monitoring of progress and results.

## **Burned Area Rehabilitation**

### **Program Managers**

Director, OWF

Program Manager, Wildland Fire Risk Reduction Coordinator

Program Manager, Risk and Infrastructure Implementation, OWF

OWF Deputy Directors and Staff

WFM Bureau Executives and Directors



### **Program Description and Objectives**

The Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) program provides for the early phases of restoration to landscapes damaged by wildfire that are unlikely to recover naturally. DOI—along with partners from Tribal Nations, States, counties, and local governments—works on non-emergency, rehabilitation actions that may take up to five years to complete. Immediate threats after a fire—such as floods, debris flows, and landslides—receive treatment using Emergency Stabilization funds from the Suppression Operations activity. BAR picks up where this emergency stabilization leaves off.

BAR projects help prevent further degradation of watersheds and landscapes affected by severe wildfire. Agencies may re-seed or plant trees and other desired vegetation to mitigate the risk of catastrophic landslides, prevent the establishment of invasive species, maintain soil productivity, and initiate the recovery of critical wildlife habitat. Other activities may include repairing minor assets such as signs damaged by wildfire, rehabilitating Tribal Nation trust resources, and monitoring treatment effectiveness and success.

### **Implementation Strategy**

Funding in the BIL will dramatically expand opportunities to restore landscapes damaged by wildfire. This funding presents significant opportunities to coordinate across the WFM program with Fuels Management, with USDA Forest Service, and with the DOI resource management programs to leverage the law's complementary funding to address cross-boundary ecosystem restoration.

### **Performance**

BAR effects may take several years to become apparent and measurable. In the near-term, DOI will measure progress on several indicators: substantially increased work accomplishment (e.g., number of projects and acres treated); the locations and objectives of accomplished work; and the nature and amount of collaboration in planning and conducting work. The DOI WFM program will use existing systems and processes to track these achievements. The law will greatly expand the extent of work accomplished. Consequently, DOI will also pursue increased strategic use of remote sensing technology and geospatial analysis to help support efficient monitoring of progress and results.

## **Joint Fire Science Program**

### **Program Managers**

Director, OWF

Program Manager, Wildland Fire Risk Reduction Coordinator

Program Manager, Risk and Infrastructure Implementation, OWF

JFSP Program Manager, Bureau of Land Management

OWF Deputy Director and Staff

### **Program Description and Objectives**

The Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) delivers dedicated wildland fire research and science to inform fire management policies and decisions at local, regional, and national levels. Congress



created it in 1998. JFSP is an interagency partnership between DOI and USDA Forest Service. The program responds to the needs of the wildland fire community by competitively funding fire science research projects and science delivery to answer emerging questions and fill knowledge gaps on managing wildland fire, fuels, and fire-impacted ecosystems. JFSP also coordinates the Fire Science Exchange Network (FSEN) to ensure that information is useful and actionable by local, State, regional, and national managers.

JFSP projects have contributed to basic research, wildfire decision support, smoke management, traditional ecological knowledge, better understanding of the role of fire and restoration following wildfire and meeting regulatory requirements. Planned efforts include further research on the interaction of fire and climate, tradeoffs between prescribed fire and wildfire, and the impacts of smoke across varied populations across the Nation.

### **Implementation Strategy**

JFSP will target BIL projects that can be initiated promptly. The funding will primarily benefit university and college researchers, occasionally with minimal to minor partnerships between universities and Federal researchers. Administrative overhead is minimal.

Subject matter expert panels review and rate JFSP research projects. They recommend priority projects to an interagency board comprising senior managers and scientists. The research projects are inherently collaborative efforts, and results are disseminated through the FSEN, which is a colloquium of local, State, Tribal, and Federal researchers and managers. Federal partners include several DOI bureaus, multiple USDA services, NOAA/DOC, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Institute of Standards and Technology/DOC, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Department of Defense. There is a potential to further enhance coordination through the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, the National Science Foundation, and the National Academies.

### **Performance**

DOI and USDA Forest Service monitor progress of research projects through regular reporting by researchers and periodic cross-program symposiums (virtual and/or in-person). The departments will continue this approach for implementing the BIL.