



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

AUG 14 2019

OWF POLICY MEMORANDUM 2019-009

To: Fire Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Fire Director, Bureau of Land Management
Fire Director, Fish and Wildlife Service
Fire Director, National Park Service

From: Jeffery Rupert - Director, Office of Wildland Fire

Subject: Fuels Management Program Framework and Spend Plan Guidance for FY 2020

This policy memorandum provides fiscal year (FY) 2020 Framework and Spend Plan Guidance for the Fuels Management (FM) program funded and executed through the Department of the Interior's (DOI) Wildland Fire Management (WFM) program.

Background

The FM program supports strategic investments in managing vegetation to reduce the risk and negative impacts of wildfire to people, communities, and natural/cultural resources. Program activities provide cost-effective benefits to the American people, help restore and maintain healthy ecosystems, and support communities in their efforts to become fire-adapted.

A number of directives, orders and policies have been instituted across DOI that mandate the strategic oversight and investment of appropriated funds. This includes guidance from the DOI Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, Finance, Performance, dated March 26, 2018, directing Assistant Secretaries and Heads of Bureaus to develop spend plans for all DOI-funded programs and activities to “ensure funding is lawful and accommodates Secretarial priorities”.

As the principal coordinating body for wildland fire management policy across DOI, the Interior Fire Executive Council (IFEC) recognizes the importance of reducing wildfire risk across all management jurisdictions to protect people, resources, and communities from catastrophic wildfires. While bureaus may have different land management objectives and complexities, IFEC fully supports a coordinated approach to management that acknowledges each bureau's priorities and values, and strives to ensure that DOI communicates with a shared vision when engaging with stakeholders at the local level in assessing wildfire risk.

Additionally, Executive Order 13855 ‘Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Rangelands, and Other Federal Lands To Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk,’ and Secretarial Order 3372, “Reducing Wildfire Risk on Department of Interior Lands through Active Management,” promote the protection of people, communities, and watersheds, to

promote healthy and resilient DOI and Tribal Lands by actively managing them through partnerships with States, tribes, communities, non-profit organizations, and the private sector.¹

This policy memorandum shares similar concepts compatible with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), '[Towards Shared Stewardship Across Landscapes, An Outcome-Based Investment Strategy](#)'. As a key federal partner with DOI, common concepts and shared strategies support the leveraging of resources to meet the goals of the DOI strategic plan and Executive Order 13855.

Collectively, these directives, orders and policies necessitates continuing collaborative efforts between the Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) and the fire bureaus to ensure that WFM program funds are strategically executed. The framework described below documents how bureaus prioritize their annual fuels management workload in support of IFEC's vision to reduce wildfire risk.

FY 2020 FM Program of Work and Spend Plans

Bureaus' FY 2020 FM Program of Work (POW) will be prioritized, entered in the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS), and submitted to the OWF via program spend plans by September 20, 2019. Bureaus' spend plans should reflect the assumption that funding levels for the Bureaus FM programs will be similar to those outlined in OWF [Policy Memorandum 2019-008](#). DOI Fire Bureaus will also provide out-year planning of projects in NFPORS for FY 2021 through FY 2022. DOI fuels management projects will utilize the following framework to help prioritize and inform long-term investment strategies for the FM program.

FM Framework

1. Values at Risk: Collaborate with stakeholders to identify and prioritize shared values at appropriate geographic scales.
2. Risk Assessment: Conduct or utilize a risk assessment identifying wildfire likelihood and potential impacts to values within the appropriate geographic scale.
3. Activities to Mitigate Risk: Identify and coordinate with local stakeholders the most effective and appropriate project activities to reduce risk from wildfires, considering different types of treatment methodologies and capacity to accomplish.
4. Collaboration and Leveraging: Where mutual interests align, Bureaus will collaborate with internal and external partners to leverage capabilities to accomplish projects.
5. Performance Measures: Bureaus will evaluate efficiency, effectiveness, and contribution towards attainment of the goals described in the DOI Strategic Plan and the Wildland Fire Management program.

¹ Executive Order 13855 'Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Rangelands, and Other Federal Lands To Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk'

Accountability

Program accountability milestones will be utilized to inform Bureau allocations. The Bureau's final fiscal year allocation may be based on performance in the following criteria:

- Completion of Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring.
- Completion of Accomplished Hazardous Fuels Treatment Polygon reporting.
- Completion and submission of prioritized program of work and spend plan.
- Identification of out-year planned projects (3-year POW) in NFPORS
- Management of FM funds within policy and guidance.

Please direct any questions to Erin Horsburgh, Deputy Director at 208-334-1550, Jason Fallon at (208) 334-1569, or Kristy Swartz at 208-334-1562, Wildland Fire Program Specialists.