



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

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## OWF POLICY MEMORANDUM 2016-11

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: Bryan Rice, Director – Office of Wildland Fire

Subject: Use of Data to Enhance Prioritization and Allocation of Resources and Reporting  
Acres Burned in Greater Sage-grouse Habitat

**Purpose:** The purpose of this Policy Memorandum is to identify responsibilities for reporting of acres burned in Greater sage-grouse (GRSG) habitat and ensure that ecological data and wildland fire data are integrated and effectively managed to support a Department of the Interior goal of improving the use of firefighting assets in order to protect priority GRSG habitat.

**Background:** The Final Report to the Secretary of the Interior (May 2015) for Secretarial Order (SO) 3336, *An Integrated Rangeland Fire Management Strategy* outlines a set of key actions to improve the efficiency of actions to address rangeland fire, to better prevent and suppress rangeland fire, and improve efforts to restore fire-impacted landscapes. Because wildfire has been identified as a significant threat to the long-term conservation of Greater sage-grouse populations, it is the responsibility of land managers to anticipate and allocate wildfire management resources accordingly. The final report identifies that processes at the local, geographic area and national levels utilized to prioritize and inform allocation of firefighting resources could be improved through the collection, analysis, and use of relevant data.

**Scope:** This Policy Memorandum applies to wildland fire management activities conducted by the Department of the Interior's bureaus involving GRSG habitat.

**Time Frame:** This Policy Memorandum is effective immediately and remains in effect until rescinded or modified, or superseded by updates to the Departmental Manual.

**Policy:** In order to provide a coordinated suppression response to wildfires in GRSG habitat, the Fire Directors will ensure the use of the most current data to identify and prioritize protection of GRSG habitat from fire. This data displays the 2014/2015 land use plan designated habitat allocations and United States Fish and Wildlife Service data from the 2015 GRSG listing decision indicating the relative priority for protection:

<http://www.nifc.gov/fireandsagegrouse/mapsData.html>

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will serve as the lead in the coordination and identification of SO 3336 data relevant to wildland fire management program purposes on DOI administered lands. The BLM will geospatially intersect daily fire perimeters with the GRSG habitat data layer to determine acres burned throughout the fire season. Products from BLM will include both tabular data and maps. To facilitate accurate reporting of acres burned in GRSG habitat, each bureau is responsible for uploading daily and final fire perimeters in a timely manner to the bureau's designated geospatial service or FTP site, which will then be attributed consistently by the GeoMAC team and uploaded to <http://www.geomac.gov>.

The bureaus will use the National Wildfire Coordinating Group approved Incident Status Summary Report (ICS-209) within the Fire and Aviation Management Web Application SIT-209 program in accordance with OWF Policy Memorandum #2015-007 when a wildfire meets national reporting thresholds. These actions will support development of the Incident Management Situation Report. In addition, Computer Aided Dispatch (or equivalent) and Integrated Reporting of Wildland Fire Information (IRWIN) data integration service will be utilized when GRSG habitat is burned or threatened.

Actions that ensure inter-operability of data and resources will be maintained at all levels of the organization (local, geographic area, national) for preparedness, resource pre-positioning, initial response, and incident management, in order to improve utilization of fire management resources and assets in relation to *An Integrated Rangeland Fire Management Strategy* (May, 2015) to increase efficiency and reduce costs.

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