



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

OCTOBER 11, 2018

OWF POLICY MEMORANDUM 2019-003

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

From: Jeff Rupert - Director, Office of Wildland Fire

Subject: Fuels Management Program Priorities and Spend Plan Guidance for Fiscal Year 2019

Greg S. L. E. for

This policy memorandum provides fiscal year (FY) 2019 guidance on program priorities and objectives for the Fuels Management (FM) program funded and executed in the Department of the Interior's (DOI) Wildland Fire Management (WFM) program.

Background

Under DOI's FM program, fuels treatments are strategically placed and implemented to reduce the risk of wildfire. In recent years, the DOI has made significant progress in this program, guided in part by the DOI Strategic Plan, Secretary Zinke's Wildland Fire Directive, and other Departmental and Bureau priorities and policies. These efforts contribute to an integrated wildland fire management approach that supports the reduction of wildfire risk on DOI and Tribal lands, contribute to public and firefighter safety, and improve ecological conditions across landscapes. Through the Southern Border Fuels Management Initiative, DOI has also helped to advance DOI's strategic goals and the objectives of the FM program by protecting natural and cultural resources while simultaneously facilitating national security through targeted fuels management projects along the southern border.

Beginning in FY 2018, the Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) requested FM Project Spend Plans to provide program oversight and to ensure that project funding comported with DOI program objectives. FM Project Spend Plans describe each project's objectives, how they align with Secretarial priorities, and the program funds needed to implement the project.

Program Objectives

To continue effective FM program management and oversight, all bureaus are required to prepare and submit FY 2019 FM Project Spend Plans for review by DOI. All projects included in the FY 2019 FM Project Spend Plans must support the Secretary's priorities and meet the following program objectives:

- ***Integration with Resource Management*** – proposed projects must demonstrate how they drive key natural resource benefits through an integrated, programmatic approach that incorporates active vegetation management to achieve WFM program goals and objectives.
- ***Stewardship-Based*** – proposed projects have shared stewardship values demonstrated by joint, mutually agreed upon priorities with partners at all levels that includes the coordination of assets, skills, and resources.
- ***Geographic Landscape-Based*** – proposed projects contribute to a landscape-based approach to achieve mutually agreed upon active management goals and objectives that are coordinated locally.
- ***Outcome Based*** – proposed projects are strategically placed to achieve the following objectives: 1) mitigate significant wildfire risk to DOI and Tribal values; 2) protect, maintain, or improve wildfire resiliency; 3) avoid costs if tested by wildfire; or 4) meet Bureaus' statutory obligations for wildland fire management responsibilities.

Funding for FM projects is contingent on the bureaus' completion of their FY 2019 FM Project Spend Plans as outlined in OWF Policy Memorandum 2019-002. It is important that all projects be tracked, mapped, and documented, following OWF and Bureau business rules, and be completed in the planned fiscal year. Bureaus should expect quarterly fuels management project reviews to ensure compliance with program objectives and spend plans.

This guidance will remain in effect until superseded by policy, statute, or other official direction. Please direct any questions to Jeffery Rupert, Director, Office of Wildland Fire, 202-208-2719 or at Jeffery_Rupert@ios.doi.gov.

cc: Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs
 Assistant Secretary, Land and Mineral Management
 Assistant Secretary, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks