



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

DOI WILDLAND FIRE PROGRAM POLICY MEMORANDUM No. 2022-003

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: Jeffery Rupert, Director – Office of Wildland Fire

Subject: Guidance for Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Allocations during Continuing Resolutions (Public Laws 117-43, 117-70, and 117-86)

Due Date: Does not apply

Effective Date: Immediately

Expiration Date: Remains in effect unless rescinded or modified

Purpose: This Policy Memorandum (PM) provides direction regarding budget allocations for Department of the Interior (DOI) Wildland Fire Management (WFM) programs and activities for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 during the third Continuing Resolution (CR): Public Law (P.L.) 117-86, the Further Additional Extending Government Funding Act. The direction in this PM is consistent with direction provided by:

- DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2022-001, “Guidance for Initial Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Allocations, Disaster Relief Funding Allocations, and Spend Plans for Burned Area Rehabilitation and Carryover Funding,” (see Attachment 2); and
- DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2022-002, “Guidance for Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Allocations during Continuing Resolutions (Public Laws 117-43 and 117-70)” (see Attachment 3).

Background: Public Law (P.L.) 117-43, the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act, was the first CR for FY 2022. P.L. 117-43:

- Authorized continuing appropriations from October 1 through December 3, 2021;
- Provided emergency supplemental funding for disaster assistance, including DOI WFM;
- Raised the premium pay cap for the pay of certain wildland fire employees for services performed during calendar year 2021 for DOI and the Department of Agriculture (USDA);

- Requires that DOI and USDA submit a report to Congress detailing the number of positions, occupations, grades, and pay, by type of pay, of positions where the premium pay authorization was applied; and
- Requires that DOI and USDA provide a report to Congress on the framework to modernize the wildland firefighting workforce.

P.L. 117-70, the Further Extending Government Funding Act, was the second CR for FY 2022. P.L. 117-70 authorized continuing appropriations from December 4, 2021, through February 18, 2022 (see Attachment 3).

Coordination: The Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) consulted WFM bureaus and offices in the development of this PM.

Scope: This PM applies to budget allocations and execution for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the National Park Service (NPS), OWF, and any other DOI bureaus or offices that receive WFM funding from the third CR for FY 2022, P.L. 117-86.

Existing Policy Affected: DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2022-001, “Guidance for Initial Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Allocations, Disaster Relief Funding Allocations, and Spend Plans for Burned Area Rehabilitation and Carryover Funding” (see Attachment 2); and DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2022-002, “Guidance for Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Allocations during Continuing Resolutions (Public Laws 117-43 and 117-70)” (see Attachment 3).

Authority: Departmental Manual (DM) Part 620 Wildland Fire Management

Time Frame: This PM applies to funding made available under P.L. 117-86 for the period of February 19, 2021, through March 11, 2022. This period covers 21 days, which is 5.75 percent of FY 2022. Including funding made available under P.L. 117-43 (the first CR for FY 2022) and P.L. 117-70 (the second CR for FY 2022), Congress and the President have approved funding for 162 days, or 44.38 percent, of FY 2022.

Policy:

Continuing Resolution: WFM bureaus and offices must follow the CR terms and provisions outlined in the October 1, 2021, DOI Office of Budget (POB) memo, “Guidance for FY 2022 Funds Execution Under H.R. 5305, the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act.” (See Attachment 1 and its attachments: A, B, and C. Attachments 1 and A remain unchanged from the first CR. Attachments B and C reflect updated documents for the third CR.)

Under the terms of the CRs, WFM bureaus and offices must manage funding consistent with FY 2021 enacted appropriations and may not assume enactment of funding in the FY 2022 President’s budget, in H.R. 4502 (which the House of Representatives passed July 29, 2021), or in the Senate subcommittee FY 2022 appropriations mark, including bill or report language. WFM bureaus and offices must manage prudently to maintain ongoing activities in a manner that

does not “impinge on final funding prerogatives,” per direction in the POB memorandum (see Attachment A).

In planning funds execution for the full fiscal year, WFM bureaus and offices should execute the amounts provided by the CRs but keep in mind the possibility that there may eventually be reductions from the FY 2021 full-year enacted levels. OWF is not holding funds in the WFM Parent account to cover such potential reductions. Allocation amounts for the CRs (P.L. 117-43, P.L. 117-70, and P.L. 117-86) are provided below in Table 1.

Table 1:
Wildland Fire Management FY 2022 Allocations
Public Laws 117-43, 117-70, and 117-86
Continuing Resolutions 1, 2, and 3 for FY 2022
Dollars in thousands

	<i>BIA</i>	<i>BLM</i>	<i>FWS</i>	<i>NPS</i>	<i>OWF</i>	<i>Parent</i>	<i>Total CR Funding</i>
<i>Preparedness</i>	\$ 29,429	\$ 86,426	\$ 12,704	\$ 18,003	\$ 7,160	\$ 323	\$ 154,045
<i>Suppression</i>	\$ 83,326	\$ 45,046	\$ 3,214	\$ 23,691	\$ 883	\$ 14,107	\$ 170,267
<i>Fuels Management</i>	\$ 21,875	\$ 45,616	\$ 13,573	\$ 13,621	\$ 2,454	\$ 481	\$ 97,620
<i>Burned Area Rehabilitation</i>	\$ 2,254	\$ 4,910	\$ 699	\$ 1,220	\$ 1		\$ 9,084
<i>Facilities Construction and Maintenance</i>						\$ 8,178	\$ 8,178
<i>Joint Fire Science Program</i>		\$ 1,331					\$ 1,331
<i>Total Bureau Allocation</i>	\$ 136,884	\$ 183,329	\$ 30,190	\$ 56,535	\$ 10,498	\$ 23,089	\$ 440,525

This table does not show allocations of disaster relief emergency supplemental funding provided by P.L. 117-43. For those allocations, refer to DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2022-001. This table also does not show allocations of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding (P.L. 117-58). That funding has not been apportioned by the Office of Management and Budget.

OWF will transfer funds provided by the third CR from the Parent account to bureaus and provide the Treasury transaction numbers.

Budget Guidance: Please contact OWF if you identify priority needs through March 11, 2022, that cannot be met using the funds allocated as shown in Table 1 and other available funding (e.g., disaster relief emergency supplemental assistance provided by P.L. 117-43 for FY 2022 for fuels management and burned area rehabilitation).

In addition to the requirements in the POB memo and its attachments and in DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2022-001 and DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2022-002, the following budget guidance and direction applies:

- Suppression Operations: The CRs provide a total of \$170.3 million for Suppression Operations in the WFM account. In accordance with policy and past practice, during the CRs, OWF initially allocated to the WFM bureaus approximately 40 percent of the ten-year average of suppression expenditures. From the amount retained in the Parent account, OWF has provided additional allocations as needed by bureaus to continue suppression operations during the CR. In addition to the CR funding allocated to Suppression, \$45.0 million of

carryover funding from the Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund was transferred to the WFM Suppression account prior to the end of the first CR to provide necessary resources.

- Facilities Construction and Maintenance: The CRs have provided a total of \$8.2 million for Facilities Construction and Maintenance through March 11, 2022. However, no funding is allocated for Facilities Construction and Maintenance at this time, and no minimum funding is necessary to continue operations. Available funding will be held in the Parent account for future allocation.

Contacts: For more information, you may contact Stephen Elmore (stephen_elmore@ios.doi.gov) or Kimberly Salwasser (kimberly_salwasser@ios.doi.gov).

cc: DOI WFM Executives
DOI WFM Directors
DOI WFM Budget Leads

Attachments:

- 1 – DOI Office of Budget memo, “Guidance for FY 2022 Funds Execution Under H.R. 5305, the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act”
 - A – Office of Management and Budget Bulletin No. 21-05, “Apportionment of the Continuing Resolution(s) for Fiscal Year 2022”
 - B – DOL Table for CR through March 11, 2022 *[This is an updated attachment from the original attachment to the DOI Office of Budget memo.]*
 - C – Text of P.L. 117-86 *[This is an updated attachment from the original attachment to the DOI Office of Budget memo.]*
- 2 – DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2022-001, “Guidance for Initial Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Allocations, Disaster Relief Funding Allocations, and Spend Plans for Burned Area Rehabilitation and Carryover Funding”
- 3 – DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2022-001, “Guidance for Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Allocations during Continuing Resolutions (Public Laws 117-43 and 117-70)”