



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

## DOI WILDLAND FIRE PROGRAM POLICY MEMORANDUM No. 2022-007

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: Further Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Allocations and Guidance on  
Implementation of Special Payments to Wildland Firefighters under the  
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58)

Due Date: Does not apply

Effective Date: Immediately

Expiration Date: Remains in effect unless rescinded or modified

**Purpose:** This Policy Memorandum (PM) provides information and direction regarding additional Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 budget allocations, including for implementation of special payments to wildland firefighters by the Department of the Interior’s Wildland Fire Management (WFM), based on the funding and provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, or “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL),” Public Law (P.L.) 117-58.

**Background:** The direction in this PM supports Interior’s continued implementation of the BIL, including the special pay supplement authorized by Section 40803(d)(4) of the law and BIL’s Burned Area Rehabilitation provisions. The direction in this PM also applies to implementation of additional pay considerations that will result indirectly from implementation of the BIL special pay supplement.

**Coordination:** The Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) consulted Interior’s WFM bureaus, Office of the Solicitor, BIL Project Management Office, and Office of Budget in developing 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 bureaus or offices that receive WFM BIL funding under this PM.

**Existing Policy Affected:** DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2022-006, “Guidance for Initial Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Allocations and Execution for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58)”

**Authority:** Departmental Manual (DM) Part 620 Wildland Fire Management; BIL (P.L. 117-58)

**Time Frame:** This PM applies to requirements of and funding made available by P.L. 117-58. The allocations of funding detailed in this PM are from appropriations made available beginning in FY 2022. The funds are available until expended.

**Policy:**

**Budget Allocations:** See Table 1 (below) for allocation amounts under this PM from P.L. 117-58 for FY 2022, by bureau or office, to implement the special pay supplement authorized in BIL Section 40803(d)(4). See also Table 2 (below) for total approved allocations of BIL funding for FY 2022 to date. (DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2022-06 provided the first allocations of BIL funding.)

OWF notifies bureaus of Treasury transaction numbers once transfers are completed. Bureaus and offices should obligate this funding consistent with policy guidance and direction provided in/by:

- Memo from the Office of the Secretary, “Implementation of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) Section 40803(d)(4) compensation payments for wildland firefighters,” June 21, 2022 (see *Attachment 1*);
- Interagency Frequently Asked Questions regarding implementation of Section 40803 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Public Law 117-58), June 21, 2022 (see *Attachment 2*);
- DOI Wildland Fire Program Policy Memorandum No. 2022-004, “Guidance for Full-Year Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Allocations and Execution for the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-103)”;
- DOI Wildland Fire Program Policy Memorandum No. 2022-006, “Guidance for Initial Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Allocations and Execution for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58)”;
- Additional guidance that may follow regarding these special payments covered by this memo, from OWF, the Office of Human Capital, or another department office.

**Table 1**  
**Allocations of FY 2022 Funding**  
**from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) for the**  
**Special Pay Supplement - Section 40803(d)(4)**  
Dollars in thousands/ A

Activity or Subactivity	BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	OWF/ C	Total by Category
<b>Preparedness</b>						
Retroactive Pay/ B	5,065	22,760	5,591	5,445	132	38,993
Bi-weekly Pay/ B	2,057	11,839	2,260	2,673	48	18,877
<b>TOTAL by Bureau/Office</b>	<b>7,122</b>	<b>34,599</b>	<b>7,851</b>	<b>8,118</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>57,870</b>

A/ Allocations are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars for presentation in this table.

B/ These amounts are estimates of the costs of the special pay supplement for Federal wildland firefighters provided for under BIL Section 40803(d)(4). The actual costs of retroactive and bi-weekly payments may differ. The split of the allocation between the two categories is not a restriction, it is just an estimate. Bureaus/offices may use whatever portion of their allocation is appropriate for the specific payments.

C/ The allocation for OWF includes funding for the Office of the Secretary/Office of Aviation Services.

**Preparedness:** \$75,940,000 was apportioned for BIL Preparedness for FY 2022. This funding is available until expended. The WFM program transferred 0.5 percent (\$379,700) to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), as required by the law. PM No. 2022-006 allocated \$1,904,000.

Of available balances, this PM allocates a total \$57,870,000 to the WFM bureaus and OWF as indicated in Table 1 and for the purposes described below (see “Special Payments to Wildland Firefighters”) and in the attachments. The remainder of the apportioned funding for Preparedness will remain in the WFM Parent account and be allocated as additional needs are identified.

**Burned Area Rehabilitation:** \$76,000,000 was apportioned for BIL Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) for FY 2022. This funding is available until expended. The WFM program transferred 0.5 percent (\$380,000) to OIG, as required by law. PM No. 2022-006 allocated \$19,430,000 for BAR projects and a transfer of \$525,000 to FWS’s Office of Ecological Services for that office to provide Endangered Species Act consultations for all WFM bureaus for BAR projects funded through BIL (That memo also allocated Fuels Management funding for this purpose.).

Of available balances, this PM allocates \$300,000 to BLM to hire two contracting officers to provide services to all of the WFM bureaus for BAR projects funded through BIL, as approved by the Interior Fire Executive Council on May 12, 2022.

**Table 2**  
**Total Approved Allocations of FY 2022 Funding**  
**from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58)**  
**through July 7, 2022**

DOI Wildland Fire Program PMs No. 2022-006 and 2022-007

Dollars in thousands/ A

Activity or Subactivity	BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	OWF	Total to Date	Parent Account	Total Available/ B
<b>Preparedness</b>	7,206	34,649	7,901	8,168	1,850	59,774	15,786	<b>75,560</b>
<b>Fuels Management</b>	16,388	38,210	11,433	11,236	3,717	80,984	170,313	<b>251,297</b>
<b>Burned Area Rehabilitation/ C</b>	4,691	10,519	1,455	2,540	525	19,730	55,890	<b>75,620</b>
<b>Joint Fire Science Program</b>	0	3,085	0	0	0	3,085	0	<b>3,085</b>
<b>TOTAL Allocations by Bureau/Office</b>	<b>28,285</b>	<b>86,463</b>	<b>20,789</b>	<b>21,944</b>	<b>6,092</b>	<b>163,573</b>	<b>241,989</b>	<b>405,562</b>

A/ Allocations are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars for presentation in this table.

B/ "Total Available" amounts by activity or subactivity are after the directed transfer of 0.5 percent of all appropriations to the Office of the Inspector General.

C/ OWF will transfer each bureau's allocation of BAR funding as BAR projects needing funding are identified and Bureau-approved in the National Fire Plan Operations System (NFPORS) or Vegetation Management Action Portal (VMAP).

**Special Payments to Wildland Firefighters:** Interior is in the process of implementing special payments for Federal wildland firefighters following the guidance provided in the attachments to this PM.

- Special Pay Supplement under BIL: The special payments for wildland firefighters that Interior will be making pursuant to Section 40803(d)(4) of BIL are referred to as a "special pay supplement" for an eligible Federal wildland firefighter. Bureaus should use the allocations for Preparedness in Table 1 (above) for these payments. As required by Section 40803(d)(4), Interior will fund the special pay supplement using the \$120.0 million made available to Interior under subsection 40803(c)(2)(A). OWF and WFM bureau budget staff, in consultation with the Interior Business Center and other offices will determine how to record these payments to ensure that they are tracked in detail and in total.
- Indirect, Secondary Pay Effects: When Interior implements the BIL special pay supplement, which is tied to "base salary," the action may have indirect, secondary

effects on an individual firefighter's other pay, including the computation of overtime pay under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Special payments tied to these indirect, secondary effects will not be funded from BIL Section 40803(c)(2)(A). Rather, such payments will come from the appropriate non-BIL funding source following regular pay and budget procedures depending on the work the firefighter performed.

For example, for FLSA overtime pay, some of these payments will be funded from regular, non-BIL appropriations for Suppression Operations and some of them will be paid from other, non-BIL appropriations—as appropriate based on the work the firefighter was performing while working overtime. This PM does not allocate funding for these indirect, secondary effects on firefighters' compensation. Funding for these effects will come from previous or future allocations of non-BIL funding.

**Contacts:** For more information, you may contact the following people regarding:

- **Budget allocations:** Stephen Elmore ([stephen\\_elmore@ios.doi.gov](mailto:stephen_elmore@ios.doi.gov)) or Kimberly Salwasser ([kimberly\\_salwasser@ios.doi.gov](mailto:kimberly_salwasser@ios.doi.gov))
- **BAR:** Kristy Swartz ([kristy\\_swartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:kristy_swartz@ios.doi.gov))
- **Firefighters' compensation:** Erin Horsburgh ([erin\\_horsburgh@ios.doi.gov](mailto:erin_horsburgh@ios.doi.gov)), Jason Fallon ([jason\\_fallon@ios.doi.gov](mailto:jason_fallon@ios.doi.gov)), Joe Majewski ([joseph\\_majewski@ios.doi.gov](mailto:joseph_majewski@ios.doi.gov)), or Ryan Wilkins ([ryan\\_wilkins@ios.doi.gov](mailto:ryan_wilkins@ios.doi.gov))

cc: Interior WFM Executives  
Interior WFM Directors  
Interior WFM Budget Staff

Attachments:

1. Memo from the Office of the Secretary, “Implementation of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) Section 40803(d)(4) compensation payments for wildland firefighters,” June 21, 2022
2. Interagency Frequently Asked Questions regarding implementation of Section 40803 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Public Law 117-58), June 21, 2022