



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

DOI WILDLAND FIRE PROGRAM POLICY MEMORANDUM No. 2023-002

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: Initial Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Allocations for Implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (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Expiration Date: Remains in effect unless rescinded or modified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 initial Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 allocations of funding for implementing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, or “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law” (BIL), Public Law (P.L.) 117-58.

Background: The direction in this PM supports the Department of the Interior’s (DOI) continued implementation of BIL’s Wildland Fire Management (WFM) provisions. This PM covers the first round of FY 2023 allocations, which build on BIL funding carried from FY 2022 into FY 2023. This PM’s allocations and guidance are for Preparedness, Fuels Management, Burned Area Rehabilitation, and the Joint Fire Science Program.

Coordination: The Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) consulted bureaus and offices participating in DOI’s WFM program, the DOI BIL Project Management Office, and the DOI 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)”; DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2022-007, “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)”; DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2022-008, “Further Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Allocations (Public Law 117-58)”; and DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2023-001, “Guidance for Initial Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Allocations and Spend Plans for Fuels Management, Burned Area Rehabilitation, and Carryover Funding (Public Law 117-180)”

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 and FY 2023. The funds are available until expended.

Policy:

Budget Allocations: See Table 1 (below) for new approved allocation amounts from P.L. 117-58 for FY 2023, by bureau or office, to implement BIL. These funds will be available in addition to unobligated balances of approved FY 2022 allocations of BIL funding. This PM’s allocations are for the following purposes (all references are to Division D, Title VIII, of P.L. 117-58, except as indicated otherwise):

- Preparedness:
 - Special pay supplements for Federal wildland firefighters, as authorized by BIL Section 40803(d)(4), and
 - Workshops and training, as authorized by BIL Section 40803(c);
- Fuels Management
 - Activities authorized by BIL Sections 40803(c)—subsections 11, 13, 14, and 15—and Division J, Title VI, under the heading “Wildland Fire Management”,
 - Designated funding for Tribal contract and administrative support costs, and
 - Tribal workforce development (partially funded through Burned Area Rehabilitation);
- Burned Area Rehabilitation: Activities authorized by BIL Section 40803(c)(16) and Division J, Title VI, under the heading “Wildland Fire Management”; and
- Joint Fire Science Program: Activities authorized by BIL Section 40803(c)(9)(A).

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

- 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)”, which includes guidelines on administrative costs and reporting requirements; and
- DOI Wildland Fire Program Policy Memorandum No. 2022-007, “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).”

Table 1
New Approved Allocations of Funding
from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58)

Dollars in thousands/ A

Activity or Subactivity	BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	OWF	TOTAL
Preparedness, Subtotal	3,757	17,699	4,209	5,020	702	31,387
Compensation/ B	3,667	17,449	4,029	4,635	220	30,000
Workshops & Training/ C	90	250	180	385	482	1,387
Fuels Management, Subtotal	37,414	86,310	25,825	25,380	749	175,678
Projects/Programs of Work	33,614	86,310	25,825	25,380	749	171,878
Tribal Contract and Administrative Support	3,700	0	0	0	0	3,700
Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) Workforce Development (see also BAR)	100	0	0	0	0	100
Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR), Subtotal	4,766	10,519	1,455	2,540	0	19,280
Projects/Programs of Work	4,691	10,219	1,455	2,540	0	18,905
Contracting Officers	0	300	0	0	0	300
ITC Workforce Development (see also Fuels Management)	75	0	0	0	0	75
Joint Fire Science Program	0	1,990	0	0	0	1,990
TOTAL	45,937	116,518	31,489	32,940	1,451	228,335

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

B/ These allocations are additional funding for BIL Section 40803(d)(4): the special pay supplement for Federal wildland firefighters (the same purpose as allocations in DOI Wildland Fire Program PMs 2022-007 and 2022-008).

C/ These allocations are for BIL Section 40803(c)(7): preplanning fire response workshops and wildland fire management training.

Preparedness: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) apportioned \$100,000,000 in new funding for BIL Preparedness for FY 2023. This funding is available until expended. The WFM program will transfer 0.5 percent (\$500,000) to the DOI Office of Inspector General

(OIG), as required by the law. This PM allocates \$31,387,000 of the remaining \$99,500,000 to bureaus and offices as indicated in Table 1 and for the purposes described below:

- Compensation – Special Pay Supplements: This PM allocates \$30,000,000 to bureaus and offices to implement the special payments for Federal wildland firefighters that Interior is making pursuant to Section 40803(d)(4). These allocations are intended to cover the pay supplement costs for roughly half of FY 2023. Additional allocations for FY 2023 will be forthcoming. Bureaus and offices should use these additional allocations consistent with the guidance in PM No. 2022-007, its attachments, and other relevant guidance.
- Workshops & Training: This PM allocates \$1,387,000 to bureaus and offices to implement Section 40803(c)(7) of BIL, which authorizes (1) preplanning fire response workshops and (2) workforce training for staff, non-Federal firefighters, and Native village fire crews for wildland firefighting and increasing the pace and scale of vegetation treatments. These allocations—for the purposes approved by the Interior Fire Executive Council (IFEC) during FY 2022 and described in DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2022-008—are as follows:
 - \$250,000 to BLM for two personnel to administer, oversee, and report on the development and implementation of a contract(s) to implement recommendations and plans of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group to improve wildland fire management training. PM No. 2022-008 allocated \$25,000 for these positions for FY 2022.
 - \$125,000 to NPS to contract for a competency modeling and gap analysis for the wildland fire management occupation to inform future investments in workforce training for Federal and Tribal wildland firefighters, including training on preparing and implementing large landscape treatments. PM No. 2022-008 allocated \$875,000.
 - \$260,000 to NPS for two personnel to be part of the National Workforce Development Program (NWDP):
 1. Program Manager (GS-13) – to manage the program, which will be advised and overseen by the National Federal Fire Training Officers Steering Committee; and
 2. Instructional Designer (GS-11) – to provide instruction design expertise for competency mapping and potential course development.
 - \$90,000 to BIA for one personnel to be part of the NWDP: a Training Specialist (GS-9 to 11) to coordinate with Band 1/2 programs.
 - \$180,000 to FWS for two personnel to be part of the NWDP:

1. Fuels Training Specialist (GS-9 to 11) – to coordinate with the Prescribed Fire Training Center and other Fuels Management workforce development program; and
 2. Administrative Assistant (GS-9) – to provide administrative support to the NWDP.
- \$482,000 to OWF to procure contract support to increase Learning Management System and instructional support. IFEC approved this investment October 27, 2022.

Fuels Management: OMB apportioned \$126,886,000 in new funding for BIL Fuels Management for FY 2023. This funding is available until expended. The WFM program will transfer 0.5 percent (\$634,430) to OIG, as required by the law. In addition, \$169,678,200 in FY 2022 funding for Fuels Management remains available in the WFM “parent” account. This PM allocates \$175,678,000 (including all remaining FY 2022-apportioned funding and \$6,000,000 of FY 2023-apportioned funding) to bureaus and offices as indicated in Table 1 and for the purposes described below:

- Projects & Programs of Work: This PM allocates \$171,878,000 for activities authorized by BIL Sections 40803(c)—subsections 11, 13, 14, and 15—and Division J, Title VI, under the heading “Wildland Fire Management”. Pursuant to DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2023-001, bureaus and offices should report tabular data on fuels management activities in the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS) within 30 days of treatment/activity completion.
- Tribal Contract and Administrative Support: This PM allocates \$3,700,000 to BIA for Tribal contract and administrative support costs for BIL-related fuels management.
- Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) Workforce Development: This PM allocates \$100,000 to BIA to enter into a contract with ITC under P.L. 93-638, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, as amended, for Tribal workforce development. This PM also allocates Burned Area Rehabilitation funding (see below) for this purpose. This allocation is for FY 2023. Interior intends to continue this support in future years.

As described in DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2020-004, bureaus should identify their final program of work in NFPORS using bureau approval dates within 14 days of the approval of this PM (No. 2023-002).

Burned Area Rehabilitation: OMB apportioned \$33,714,000 in new funding for BIL Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) for FY 2023. This funding is available until expended. The WFM program will transfer 0.5 percent (\$168,568) to OIG, as required by the law. In addition, \$55,890,000 in FY 2022 funding for BAR remains available in the WFM “parent” account. This

PM allocates \$19,280,000 (from FY 2022-apportioned funding) to bureaus and offices as indicated in Table 1, for activities authorized by BIL Section 40803(c)(16) and Division J, Title VI, under the heading “Wildland Fire Management”:

- Projects & Programs of Work: This PM allocates \$18,905,000 for bureaus’ BAR projects and programs of work. OWF will transfer each bureau’s allocation of BAR funding as BAR actions are identified with a Bureau Approval Date in NFORS. Pursuant to DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. 2023-001, bureaus and offices should report tabular data on BAR actions in NFORS within 30 days of completion.
- Contracting Officers: This PM allocates \$300,000 to BLM for BAR contracting officers to provide services to the entire WFM program.
- ITC Workforce Development: This PM allocates \$75,000 to BIA to enter into a contract with ITC under P.L. 93-638, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, as amended, for Tribal workforce development. This PM also allocates Fuels Management funding (see above) for this purpose. This allocation is for FY 2023. Interior intends to continue this support in future years.

Joint Fire Science Program: OMB apportioned \$2,000,000 in new funding for BIL Joint Fire Science Program activities for FY 2023. This funding is available until expended. The WFM program will transfer 0.5 percent (\$10,000) to OIG, as required by the law. This PM allocates all of the remaining \$1,990,000 FY 2023 funding to BLM for activities authorized by BIL Section 40803(c)(9)(A).

Table 2 (below) shows total allocations of BIL funding for FY 2022 to date, including allocations covered in this PM (see also PMs No. 2022-006 and 2022-007):

Table 2
Cumulative Approved Allocations of Funding, FY 2022-2023
from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58)
by Bureau or Office
Dollars in thousands/ A

Activity or Subactivity	BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	OWF
Preparedness/ B	11,550	60,251	12,755	14,826	6,114
Fuels Management/ C	54,437	124,520	37,258	36,616	4,466
Burned Area Rehabilitation/ C, D	9,457	21,038	2,910	5,080	525
Joint Fire Science Program	0	5,075	0	0	0
Total Allocations by Bureau or Office/ C	75,444	210,884	52,923	56,522	11,105

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

B/ For Preparedness, the OWF amount reflects that the FY 2023-approved allocation to OWF in this PM (\$702,000) is offset by a reduction in an FY 2022-approved allocation to OWF that was not obligated (from PM No. 2022-006).

C/ The allocation to OWF includes FY 2022 funding transferred to FWS Ecological Services (per PM No. 2022-006).

D/ OWF will transfer each bureau's allocations of BAR funding as BAR projects needing funding are identified and bureau-approved in the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System.

Table 3 shows total approved allocations of BIL funding to date, including through this PM:

Table 3
FY 2022 and FY 2023 Approved Allocations
and Unallocated Amounts Remaining in the Parent Account
from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58)
Dollars in thousands/ A

Activity or Subactivity	FY 2022 Funding Available/ B	FY 2022 Funding Approved Allocations	FY 2022 Funding Unallocated	FY 2023 Funding Available/ B	FY 2023 Funding Approved Allocations	FY 2023 Funding Unallocated	Total Approved Allocations (FY 2022-2023 Funding)
Preparedness/ C	75,560	75,560	0	99,500	29,936	69,564	105,496
Fuels Management	251,297	251,297	0	126,252	6,000	120,252	257,297
Burned Area Rehabilitation/ D	75,620	39,010	36,610	33,545	0	33,545	39,010
Joint Fire Science Program	3,085	3,085	0	1,990	1,990	0	5,075
Total	405,562	368,952	36,610	261,287	37,926	223,361	406,878

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

B/ Available funding amounts are less the directed transfer of 0.5 percent of all appropriations to the Office of Inspector General.

C/ For Preparedness, the FY 2023 Funding Allocated amount reflects that the allocation to OWF (\$702,000) is offset by a reduction in an approved FY 2022 allocation (from PM No. 2022-006).

D/ OWF will transfer each bureau's allocations of BAR funding as BAR projects needing funding are identified and bureau-approved in the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System.

Contacts: For more information about the allocations covered by this PM, you may contact the following OWF staff:

- Budget allocations (General): Stephen Elmore or Kimberly Salwasser
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law implementation (General): Ketti Spomer
- Preparedness: Erin Horsburgh, Jason Fallon, Joe Majewski, or Ryan Wilkins
- Fuels Management: Kristy Swartz
- Burned Area Rehabilitation: Kristy Swartz
- Joint Fire Science Program: Craig Leff

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