



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

## DOI WILDLAND FIRE PROGRAM POLICY MEMORANDUM No. 2023-004

**From:** Jeffery Rupert, Director - Office of Wildland Fire

**Subject:** Department of the Interior's (DOI) Post-Wildfire Program Planning and Reporting Requirements

**Due Dates:** See Below

**Supersedes:** Wildland Fire Management Policy Memorandum: Sections of 2020-009 DOI WFM Authoritative Data Sources and Reporting Requirements related to post wildfire reporting

Expiration Date: December 31, 2026

### **Purpose:**

Provide consistent departmental direction on authoritative data sources and due dates for post-wildfire related planning and accomplishment reporting.

### **Background:**

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) passed in November of 2021 necessitates updating post-wildfire reporting direction. The framework described below documents how bureaus prioritize their annual post-wildfire workload and report on resulting annual accomplishments.

### **Coordination:**

This memorandum was coordinated with the DOI Bureau post-wildfire program leads, budget leads, and fire directors.

### **Scope:**

This Policy Memorandum applies to the DOI Bureaus and offices implementing post-wildfire actions with wildland fire program funds.

### **Authority:**

DOI DM, Series: Organization Part 112: Policy, Management, and Budget, Chapter 7: OWF, Section 7.3 Functions - B. Policy

### **Policy:**

#### **Post-wildfire fire Program Purpose**

The purpose of actions implemented using DOI Emergency Stabilization (ES) and Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) funds is to reduce the likelihood of resource damage, restore landscapes impacted by wildfire, and promote long-term restoration and recovery.

#### **Emergency Stabilization**

The principal purpose of ES is to protect life, property, and other values and prevent further degradation

of natural and cultural resources.

### **Burned Area Rehabilitation**

The principal purpose of BAR is to protect resources by repairing or improving landscapes unlikely to recover naturally to management approved conditions within an acceptable timeframe, and to repair or replace minor assets. Consistent with land and resource management plan objectives, BAR program funding is generally available for up to five years to repair damages caused by wildfire when natural recovery is unlikely to occur within an acceptable timeframe considering management objectives.

### **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) – post-fire restoration and rehabilitation**

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides a total of \$325 million for post-wildfire restoration. Of those funds, \$100 million (provided by BIL provision 40803 (c)16) are limited to implementation within “three years after the date that a wildland fire is contained”. The remaining \$225 million provided in paragraph 3 under Department Wide Programs are not explicitly time constrained and are therefore subject to existing policies regarding post-fire funding availability. As this is the only major difference between the provisions a separate tracking mechanism has not been established to differentiate between them. To follow the requirements of the law, not more than 69% of the total funds provided for post-wildfire restoration may be spent on actions more than three years after the containment date of a wildfire.

In addition to addressing typical needs identified for post-fire stabilization and rehabilitation with the normal Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation funds, BIL funds for post-fire restoration and rehabilitation may be used to:

- Conduct work or acquisitions related to *anticipated* post-fire recovery needs when that work or acquisition would substantially expedite implementation or effectiveness of actions. This work or acquisition should be limited to areas that are likely to require them after a wildfire. Examples include acquisition and development of plant materials that are scarce and/or require time to grow out to be available in a timely manner for post-fire needs.
- Implement actions necessary to proactively ensure natural recovery such as protection of seed sources or site preparation.
- Provide local, cross-boundary capacity to develop and implement projects and contracting, where there's a nexus and benefit to lands administered by DOI.

#### Not included:

Hardening of infrastructure (e.g., upsizing culverts or improving roadways) before a fire.

### **Accountability**

Funding transfer to bureaus for Burned Area Rehabilitation actions is contingent on the bureaus' entering an approved program of work in the National Fire Plan Operations Reporting System (NFPORS).

The following criteria may be utilized to inform bureaus' final fiscal year allocation:

- Completion of Accomplished Treatment Polygon reporting.
- Timely completion and submission of prioritized annual preliminary and final programs of work and spend plans.
- Identification of out-year planned work in NFPORS.
- Management of post-wildfire funds within policy and guidance.

## Post-wildfire Program of Work Development and Accomplishment Reporting

The NFPORS is the DOI System of Record and Authoritative Data Source for planned and completed post-wildfire actions. DOI Bureaus will plan and report all post-wildfire program funded accomplishments in the Restoration and Rehabilitation (R&R) Module of the NFPORS (including BLM, through the Vegetation Management Action Portal). All reporting must be consistent with the definitions, templates, and due dates described below.

- Emergency Stabilization
  - Program of Work
    - *Bureaus will input all planned activities and treatments consistent with program objectives for up to one-year post-wildfire.*
    - *Due Date: within 45 days of wildfire containment.*
  - Monthly Accomplishment reporting
    - *Due Date for Tabular Data (NFPORS): Within 30 days of treatment/activity completion.*
  - Final Annual Accomplishment reporting
    - *Due Date for Tabular Data (NFPORS Lockdown Date): October 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.*
    - *Due Date for Geospatial Data: November 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.*
- Burned Area Rehabilitation
  - Preliminary Annual Program of Work and Spend Plan
    - *From planned activities and treatments, bureaus shall identify their preliminary annual program of work using Bureau Approval Date and relevant Obligation Fiscal Year in NFPORS, requires inclusion of programmatic costs.*
      - *FWS, NPS, and BIA will identify costs using the Rehabilitation funding source and “Planned Direct Costs” for regular appropriations or “Contributed Costs” for BIL Funding.*
      - *BLM will identify costs using VMAP funding sources of Rehabilitation for regular appropriations and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for BIL funding.*
        - *Programmatic costs should be identified using PGMT in the Activity name to facilitate filtering.*
    - *Identified using Bureau Approval Dates and Obligation FY from NFPORS. Bureaus can identify a “reserve” of up to 15% to address emergent post-wildfire needs identified as new fires occur throughout the year.*
    - *Due Date: Sept 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.*
  - Mid-year review of Annual Plan
    - *A complete review of bureau spend plans and performance will be conducted each year. This review will help inform validation or adjustment of unobligated balances through the end of the fiscal year.*
    - *Due Date: April 30<sup>th</sup> or within 45 days of an approved final budget if one has not passed by March 15<sup>th</sup>.*
  - Additional Allocations and Spend Plan
    - *Emergent current FY post-fire rehabilitation needs that are ready for funding should be identified within 45 days of fire containment using Local, Regional, and Bureau Approval Dates and Obligation FY from NFPORS.*
    - *Transfers from the parent account to requesting bureau will be completed based on funding availability at a frequency of not less than once/month.*
  - Outyear Program of Work
    - *Bureaus will input all planned activities and treatments consistent with program objectives and policies for up to five years post-wildfire using Obligation FY reflective of the year funding would be transferred to the Bureau to begin implementation and Local Approval Date. Bureaus should not restrict local approval of actions due to funding constraints, only planned actions not consistent with program objectives or policies should not be locally approved.*

- *Due Date: within 45 days of plan approval.*
- Accomplishment reporting
  - *Due Date for Tabular Data (NFPORS): Within 30 days of treatment/activity completion.*
- Final Annual Accomplishment reporting
  - *Due Date for Tabular Data (NFPORS Lockdown Date): October 15th of each year.*
  - *Due Date for Geospatial Data: November 30th of each year.*

### **Fiscal Accountability**

The Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) continues to be the system of record for all post-wildfire budget execution, acquisition, grants and cooperative agreements, real and personal property management, fleet management, travel, and fiscal reporting.

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cc:

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