



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

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OWF POLICY MEMORANDUM 2014-005

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: Jim Douglas, Director – Office of Wildland Fire

Subject: Fire Management Plans

Purpose: This Policy Memorandum establishes Department of the Interior wildland fire management planning guidance as it relates to Fire Management Plans (FMP). Fire Management Plans are critical strategic documents that guide the full range of fire management activities. Their importance has been affirmed through Congressional language, numerous external audits, and internal reviews.

Background: The Interagency Fire Planning Committee (IFPC) developed an Interagency Fire Management Plan template in 2002 to ensure that FMPs were consistent in context and formatting between agencies. In 2004, a Department of the Interior (DOI) Memorandum was sent out requiring that the Interagency Fire Management Plan Template be the standard to use when developing a fire management plan.

The current Interagency Fire Management Plan template no longer provides the flexibility to adapt to shifting agency fire program priorities, organizations, and technology. The DOI members of the IFPC, with agreement from the Fire Management Board (FMB) and the Office of Wildland Management (OWF), have determined that future FMPs should be commensurate with the scope and complexity of unit fire programs. Because of this, DOI Fire Planners have developed a new Fire Management Plan Framework (see attachment) that is scalable to accommodate the scope and complexity of fire programs. The new DOI Framework also affirms that FMP information can be represented in various formats including text-based, spatial and/or digital. As always, these new modes of representing FMPs must be in agreement with the scope of their resource and land management planning.

This framework clarifies direction and provides a format that more effectively reflects the future direction of DOI fire planning. Technological advancements will allow for more efficient and effective fire management plans through varied representations of the information.

Scope: Department of the Interior bureau and office activities involving wildland fire management planning.

Time Frame: This Policy Memorandum is effective immediately and remains in effect until rescinded or modified.

Policy: Every area with burnable vegetation must have an approved Fire Management Plan based on the area's approved land management plan. Fire Management Plans must provide for firefighter and public safety; include acceptable fire management strategies and tactics; address values to be protected and public health issues; be consistent with resource management objectives and activities of the area; and comply with environmental laws and regulations.

Bureaus will use the attached Fire Management Plan Framework that supplements the requirements prescribed by this Policy Memorandum. Each bureau will develop appropriate additional guidance for implementation of the Framework.

Bureaus are not required to revise current FMPs to match this Framework until a full FMP revision is deemed necessary.

Contacts: Any questions can be directed to Dick Bahr, Deputy Director, Management and Programs, Office of Wildland Fire at (208) 334-1550.

cc: Interior Fire Executives
Interior Fire Directors
Interior National Fire Planners

Attachment: Fire Management Plan Framework

Note: This Policy Memorandum 2014-005 and Fire Management Plan Framework is available at <http://elips.doi.gov/elips/browse.aspx>

Department of the Interior

Fire Management Plan Framework

The Purpose of the Fire Management Plan Framework is to provide format and structure for developing a Fire Management Plan. This framework is designed to provide for agency flexibility and scalability so that the FMPs developed will be commensurate with the scope and complexity of the unit.

The purpose of the fire management plan is to lay out how fire management strategies and tactics will protect values and provide tools to meet resource goals and objectives.

In order to meet the direction provided by the 2009 Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Policy, Fire Management Plans must:

- Provide for firefighter & public safety
- Support Land and Resource Management Plans and their implementation by developing the management response to meet L/RMP objectives.
- Be consistent with environmental laws and regulations
- Include fire management strategies, tactics, and alternatives
- Incorporate public health and environmental quality considerations
- Address values to be protected and public health issues
- Be based upon the best available science
- L/RMP and/or FMPs will address the location and conditions under which resource benefits and protection objectives can be met.

The FMP should be interagency or intergovernmental in scope and developed on a landscape scale, where practical, to take advantage of efficiency, reduce conflict and provide understanding and cooperation.

DOI Bureaus are required to include:

- the Numbered Sections and
- the *underlined Italicized bullets*

Each Bureau will identify the additional required components based on scope and complexity of the unit. This process may also include inserting additional Sections as necessary. Any of the information can be referenced to keep the information short.

The Fire Management Plan may now be displayed in different formats: a spatial representation, text-based, and/or digital. Information on spatially displaying your fire management plans can be obtained through your regional or national fire planners.

1.0 INTRODUCTION, POLICY, & LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING

General Introduction paragraph (*add information on firefighter & public safety here*)

- Program Organization
- *Environmental Compliance*
- *Resource Management Planning*
- Collaborative Planning
- Communication and Education

2.0 FIRE MANAGEMENT GOALS and OBJECTIVES

- *Goals*
- *Objectives*

3. 0 WILDLAND FIRE OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE

- Preparedness
- *Management of Wildfires*
- Fuels Treatments
- Post Fire Response – BAER/ES/BAR
- Prevention
- Air Quality/Smoke Management
- Data Sources, Reports and Systems

4.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- *Monitoring the Fire Management Plan*
- Annual Fire Management Plan Update
- *Science, Climate Change*