



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

OCT 28 2013

## OWF POLICY MEMORANDUM 2013 – 004

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: Guidance for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Funds Execution and Continuing Resolution (C.R.) Wildland Fire Budget Allocations

**Purpose:** This memorandum provides the DOI Wildland Fire Budget Allocations for FY 2014 in compliance with Public Law (P.L.) 113-46, the FY 2014 Continuing Resolution, for the period beginning October 1, 2013 through January 15, 2014.

**Scope:** Fire management funded programs and activities in the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the Office of Wildland Fire, and the Department-wide Fire Activities. This memo updates allocations amounts; identifies a Preparedness carryover review; provides caution for the potential implications of a 2014 sequestration; and outlines expectations for the Suppression expenditure analyses.

**Time Frame:** This Policy Memorandum is effective immediately and remains in effect until rescinded or modified.

**Policy:** This allocation is based on P.L.113-46 as signed on October 16, 2013. Departmental guidance was issued October 18, 2013 through the Director of Budget memo reference title 'Guidance for FY 2014 Funds Execution under P.L. 113-46.'

Attachment 1 displays the allocation distributions for the period beginning October 1, 2013 and ending January 15, 2014, at 29.32 percent of the 2013 enacted level including the across-the-board and 5 percent sequestration reductions of FY2013.

The FY 2014 preliminary allocation table amounts were used to establish the percentage share for each program for each bureau to distribute the funding available during the C.R. No adjustments have been made to the department-wide activities and direct program share of funding in this allocation. The following is additional program specific information:

*Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR):* This HFR allocation remains at the FY 2013 percentage share for each bureau. While the P.L. 113-46 is based on the FY 2013 enacted level which, in the HFR program, is a higher level than the FY 2014 Congressional Justification level, Bureaus should use caution in executing this program as further appropriation actions may not accommodate the level shown in the current C.R. Bureaus should take full advantage of opportunities to implement fuels treatments but should exercise prudence to ensure adequate funding for staff and other program activities throughout the year. Internal management controls for hiring of personnel should be followed.

*Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR):* The BAR funding being allocated reflects the Fire Director's first quarter request as shown in the table below (\$000). If final carryover deviates from these preliminarily calculations it will be addressed during the second quarter BAR allocation request. The amount held in the parent was requested for use in covering potential sequestration reductions.

<b>Bureau</b>	<b>BIA</b>	<b>BLM</b>	<b>FWS</b>	<b>NPS</b>	<b>Parent</b>	<b>Total</b>
Carryover	47	500	-	98	-	645
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	2,123	616	243	313	323	3,618

*Emergency Stabilization (ES) and Severity:* The Suppression Operations funding allocations represent approximately 40 percent of the available funding. Bureaus may identify and request additional allocations once execution reports are available.

Emergency Stabilization and Severity authority levels are capped at ten percent of the ten-year rolling suppression expenditure average for the Department of the Interior. Allocated Severity authority is capped at \$32 million with the residual amount shown as reserve authority.

The distribution of the Department of the Interior ES authority is based on the rolling ten-year average percentage of acres burned by bureau nationally, excluding Alaska.

The distribution of the Department of the Interior Severity authority is based on each bureau's base percentage split of the annual preparedness appropriation. The percentages are: BIA 19.16 percent; BLM 57.99 percent; FWS 10.17 percent; and NPS 12.68 percent.

FY 2014 Authority levels (\$000) are shown below:

<b>Bureau</b>	<b>BIA</b>	<b>BLM</b>	<b>FWS</b>	<b>NPS</b>	<b>Reserve</b>	<b>Total</b>
Emergency Stabilization	6,454	26,700	2,712	1,922	-	37,788
Severity	6,179	18,525	3,258	4,038	5,788	37,788

In the event one or more bureaus will exceed their ES or Severity authority, the Office of Wildland Fire, in collaboration with the Interior Fire Directors, will coordinate and approve the redistribution of ES and/or Severity authority between bureaus as warranted. Any

recommended cap increases to the Departmental ES or Severity caps are subject to approval by the Director, Office of Wildland Fire in collaboration with the Interior Fire Directors.

*Fire Facilities:* The Fire Facilities project level descriptions can be found in the FY 2014 Budget Justification. Bureaus should reference Section 104 and Section 109 of the P.L. 113-46 for cautions on initiating projects or activities during the CR. This allocation does not account for a repayment of \$360,000 the BLM will provide to NPS in FY 2014.

*Carryover:* A review of Preparedness carryover is currently underway and any recommendations will be discussed with the Fire Executives. Similar to previous years BAR and Hazardous Fuels carryover will be managed through the respective allocation process. Department-wide activity carryover will be used to offset department-wide activity funds in FY 2014 and will be identified once final carryover is known in the beginning of FY 2014.

*2014 Sequestration:* The allocations provided include the 5 percent sequester reduction from FY 2013. The 2014 sequestration level for non-exempt discretionary funding will not be known until after adjournment of this session of Congress. Bureaus may anticipate this will occur in January.

Until the further appropriations activity is known all bureaus/offices should use caution to avoid expenditures and obligations which would be difficult to reverse in the event the 2014 sequestration level is 3 to 4 percent greater than the current 5 percent reduction.

*2013 Suppression Expenditure Review:* A review of the Suppression expenditures which occurred during FY 2013 is underway. The OWF and bureau budget staffs are conducting a series of after action reviews from the 2013 fire season including analyses of a variety of obligations and expenditures by incident number, budget object, and incident fiscal year to better understand FY 2013 costs, particularly in light of below average acres burned and numbers of fires. The reviews will provide an opportunity to enhance efficiency and assess such issues as tracking and projection tools and business management rules and practices. Preliminary results are planned to be available by mid to late November.

**Contacts:** Any questions can be directed to Louis Mauney, Budget Officer, Office of Wildland Fire at (202) 606-0518 or Denise Schmitz, Senior Budget Analyst, Office of Wildland Fire at (208) 334-1554.

cc: Interior Fire Executives  
Interior Fire Directors

Attachment: DOI FY 2014 P.L. 113-46 Allocations

Attachment 1

**DOI FY 2014 Continuing Resolution Allocations with Service Level Agreements and Dept.-wide activities distributed to sponsoring bureau. (\$000s)**

	<i>Preparedness</i>	<i>Suppression</i>	<i>Hazardous Fuels</i>	<i>BAR</i>	<i>Facilities</i>	<i>JFSP</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>BIA</i>	14,045	6,926	7,869	2,123	149	-	31,112
<i>BLM</i>	44,249	18,090	18,091	616	501	1,664	83,211
<i>FWS</i>	7,450	1,691	5,537	243	113	-	15,034
<i>NPS</i>	9,451	3,927	6,266	313	939	-	20,896
<i>OWF</i>	2,334	8	1,653	-	-	-	3,995
<i>Parent</i>	120	45,943	953	323	-	-	47,340
<b><i>Total Estimated Funding % Share of Total</i></b>	<b>77,649</b>	<b>76,586</b>	<b>40,369</b>	<b>3,618</b>	<b>1,702</b>	<b>1,664</b>	<b>201,588</b>
	<b>38.5%</b>	<b>38.0%</b>	<b>20.0%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>100%</b>